



© Jacqueline Lisboa / WWF-Brazil



An Actionable First Global Stocktake: Providing a course correcting pathway

November 2023

Summary

A Global Stocktake (GST) outcome should comprise a **CMA 5 decision, political declaration and technical annex which, at a minimum:**

- **Clearly identify results and gaps in terms of ambitions, implementation, and means of implementation.**
- **Promote an integrated and transparent response across the UNFCCC to strengthen the next ambition cycle.**
- **Provide clear guidance and support mechanisms for Parties to have all elements at hand to develop and implement NDCs** in a nationally determined and participatory manner, which collectively respond to the GST outcome results and align with the 1.5°C temperature-limit of the Paris Agreement.

In doing so, the outcome must take into account the principles of equity, transparency and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Misereor, Fastenaktion and WWF provide below a proposal on how this could be reflected in a GST CMA decision. This consists of a high-level political message, supported by five key ways forward.

High level political message:

In order to **course-correct**, countries urgently need to massively **scale up climate finance, revisit implementation and ambition of current 2030 climate ambition targets and set new 2035 targets within climate plans (NDCs and LT-LEDs) in line with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C, reflecting the outcomes from the First GST.**

A roadmap to move forward:

1. Recognising 1.5°C as the uppermost global warming limit.
2. Agreeing collective pathways, informed by the latest science, that can foster economy-wide and sector/system transformations, especially on energy, nature, agriculture and food systems.
3. Agreeing guidance on preparing enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-Term Low Emissions Development Plans (LT-LEDs) that include specific national measures to support clarity, transparency, participation and understanding of activities.
4. Requesting the UNFCCC Secretariat organize a series of workshops for Parties to exchange ideas and best practices for enhancing and developing NDCs with 2030 and 2035 targets that amount to reducing emissions by 43% in 2030 and 60% by 2035, and LT-LEDs in light of the findings of the first GST.
5. Providing clarity on financing and support needs, as well as delivery mechanisms to realize the pathways and implement the required actions, and responsibilities for providing that support.

Introduction

The first Global Stocktake (GST) to the Paris Agreement is more critical than could have been imagined when it was first conceived. July, August, and September 2023 have all set new records for their respective month's hottest recorded temperatures; with July being the hottest ever recorded in human history. The impacts of this are being felt everywhere, from heatwaves in the likes of Greece, and Morocco (the latter surpassed 50°C for the first time) to unusually heavy rain in China (Beijing), Libya (Derna), South Africa (Cape Town) and the US (New York).

The first GST is an activity to take inventory of progress on the implementation of the Paris Agreement, but countries have gone into this process well aware of the gaps between what is needed and what is being done, compromising the global agreement. Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC has called this a '*moment for course correction*' and has referenced his desire for '*solutions pathways*' to drive action in the next seven years.

It is clear that countries need to do more and move more rapidly. A high-level political message coming out of the GST must urge countries to massively scale up climate finance and revisit current 2030 climate ambition targets and set new 2035 targets within climate plans (NDCs and Long-Term Low Emissions Development Plans LT-LEDS) in line with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C as the uppermost limit and reflecting the outcomes from the First GST.

Going forward with discussions on the political outcome, it is clear that this high-level call to action would be incomplete without additional guidance for countries. How the 'ways forward' are articulated could make or break the first GST. These must be actionable and increase clarity and understanding of global pathways according to the latest science.



Setting out a course correction

A successful first GST is about a robust outcome which will guide course correction addressing the various ambition gaps. As per the Synthesis Report on GST elements paragraph 696, the outcome should comprise the **CMA 5 decision, political declaration and technical annex**. A successful and actionable GST must (1) deliver clarity on existing results and gaps in terms of ambitions, implementation, and means of implementation (backward looking), **as well as** (2) increased clarity and understanding on how countries can close the gaps (forward-looking). In doing so, the outcome must take into account the principles of equity and common but **differentiated** responsibilities and respective capabilities. In addition to containing the necessary language and detail to create a suitable roadmap, these elements must, **at a minimum**:

- Clearly **identify results and gaps in terms of ambitions, implementation, and means of implementation**. This includes the adoption of the comprehensive policy relevant findings of the latest climate science, set out in the IPCC's 6th Assessment Report, and the GST Technical Dialogue, set out in the Synthesis report. This comprises all unequivocal economy-wide and sectoral policy signals in line with keeping warming limited to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot.
- Strengthen the multilateral process by **promoting an integrated response across the UNFCCC**. This includes linkages which will align existing processes, such as the Mitigation Work Programme, the Global Goal on Adaptation and the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance, and otherwise provide appropriate ways forward that address the gaps and challenges identified.
- Provide an **actionable way forward for Parties**, facilitating transformative change to business as usual. This must include clear **guidance and support mechanisms for Parties to have all elements at hand to develop NDCs** in a nationally determined manner, which collectively respond to the GST outcome results and align with the 1.5°C limit of the Paris Agreement.

Such a GST outcome can and should be designed in a way which supports and strengthens, rather than impinges on, the nationally determined nature of Parties' ambition. The outcome must not end with COP28, rather ensure future activities under the Paris Agreement continue to build on the GST outcome.

“The global stocktake will end up being just another report unless governments and those that they represent can look at it and ultimately understand what it means to them and what they can and must do next. It’s the same for businesses, communities, and other key stakeholders.”

Simon Stiell, UNFCCC Executive Secretary



A roadmap on ‘way forward’

With reference to the findings of the GST Technical Assessment and elements documented in the Summary reports of the technical dialogues, the [GST Technical Dialogue Synthesis Report](#) and the [2023 Synthesis Report of GST Elements](#), it is recommended that the GST adopts five priority ways forward:

1. The GST decision must recognise that 1.5°C must be considered the uppermost global warming limit.

The IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C, the IPCC 6th Assessment Report, and the GST Technical Dialogue Synthesis report¹ have demonstrated that emerging climate impacts will happen globally and result in irreversible changes – due to the response of the earth and climate systems, cryosphere and oceans (several of which approach tipping points). Failing to course correct a global pathway limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C poses unacceptable risks, adversely impacting lives and livelihoods around the world. In short, it will lead to further Loss and Damage and failure to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Based on the principles of equity and “common but differentiated responsibility” and respective capabilities, the GST decision should state what collective policy relevant science-based pathways or measures are needed to foster national economy-wide and sector/system transformations in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The IPCC 6th Assessment Report and other inputs to the GST, including the Technical Dialogue Synthesis Report, refer to a number of key transformations which should be considered. While not exhaustive, key targets on (1) global pathways, (2) energy system transformation and (3) agriculture, food systems and nature transformation are:

¹ See Technical dialogue of the first global stocktake Synthesis report by the co-facilitators on the technical dialogue (TD Synthesis Report) paragraphs 42, 164, 214

Fig. Science-based collective pathways informed by the GST TD, IPCC 6th Assessment Report, 2023 Synthesis report on GST elements

GLOBAL PATHWAYS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global GHG emissions should peak as soon as possible and between 2020 and 2025 for all countries, noting that peaking will take longer for developing countries. All countries need to undertake rapid and deep reductions in GHG emissions in the decades after peaking. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global GHG emissions should collectively fall by 43% by 2030 and further by 60% by 2035 compared with 2019 levels. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective and equitable conservation of 35-50% of land, ocean and freshwater ecosystems, including the effective restoration of 30% of degraded land/seascapes by 2030 is needed to meet the goal of the Paris Agreement (for mitigation and adaptation) and is in line with the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework decision. 	
ENERGY SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION²	FOOD SYSTEMS AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, & NATURE TRANSFORMATION³
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase-out of all fossil fuels, noting that there are common but differentiated responsibilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero deforestation and conversion of ecosystems by 2030.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of fossil fuel subsidies in this critical decade and redirect of any revenues to support the deployment of renewable energy and related infrastructure, as well as to providing targeted support for people living in poverty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce GHGs emissions from food production by 20%, halve the share of food waste per capita relative to 2017, and shift to healthy sustainable diets by 2030 based on the recommendations of EAT Lancet commission.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceasing exploration of new coal, oil, and gas as soon as possible, and no new investments in related infrastructure at risk of becoming stranded assets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support efforts to reduce global anthropogenic methane emissions by at least 30% below 2020 levels by 2030.

² 2023 Synthesis Report on GST elements: possible elements [paragraphs] [146] [285-288]

³ 2023 Synthesis report on GST elements: possible elements [paragraphs] [109] - [113], [147], [152].

3. The GST decision should include further guidance towards preparation of enhanced and new NDCs (for 2030 and 2035 ambition) and LT-LEDs, which clarify specific national measures and timelines for economy-wide and sector/system transformations.

It should invite countries to take the science-based collective pathways into consideration for the preparation of NDCs with 2035 ambition and LT-LEDs and setting new climate targets. It should guide on information to enhance clarity, transparency, participation and understanding of climate targets which will contribute to meeting the collective timelines and measures discussed above. This would include, for example, aspects such as the need for countries to include detailed descriptions of the monitoring verification and reporting system (MRV) in place/planned; and a detailed description of the national enabling environment in place/planned, including the most important laws, programs, policies and institutions.

4. The GST decision should request the Secretariat to conduct workshops for countries in 2024 with a view to assist them in preparing NDCs with enhanced 2030 targets and actions and new 2035 targets and actions in line with 1.5°C degrees - and with the principle of highest possible ambition, participation, fairness, equity, human rights and the best available science. This, along with the findings of the First GST and the NDC, LT-LEDs synthesis reports, should provide inputs for an **NDC and LT-LEDs enhancement synthesis report**, to be prepared by the Secretariat ahead of COP29 with additional elements for consideration when developing NDCs and LT-LEDs.

5. The GST decision must provide clarity on the financing and support needed to fully implement the actions required to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The decision should provide a basis for a new global climate finance goal for developed countries of no less than USD 600 billion over the period of 2020-2025, in line with the findings of the outcomes from the technical phase of the GST. Donor countries should continue to scale up their funding in the second half of the decade, in line with their responsibilities and capabilities, the needs identified in the *GST and the NDCs*, and the outcomes of negotiations on the new collective quantified goal (NCQG).

In providing recommendations on climate finance, the GST should strengthen the call for deployment of affordable technologies, achieving balance between adaptation and mitigation finance, and securing new and additional public grant funds for loss and damage.



Shirley Matheson
Global NDC Enhancement
Coordinator
WWF International
smatheson@wfi.eu

David Knecht
Program Manager Energy &
Climate Justice
Fastenaktion Switzerland
knecht@fastenaktion.ch

Madeleine Wörner
Global Energy and Climate Policy
Advisor
Bischöfliches Hilfswerk MISEREOR e. V.
madeleine.woerner@misereor.de