

SUBMISSION BY THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE ON THE GLASGOW-SHARM EL-SHEIKH WORK PROGRAMME ON THE GLOBAL GOAL ON ADAPTATION

As the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II observed, the window to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all is rapidly closing, with some of the impacts of climate change already irreversible and hard limits to adaptation being reached. The report further noted that while adaptation had increased, progress was uneven and we were not adapting fast enough.

Singapore therefore welcomes the establishment of a two-year Glasgow-Sharm El-Sheikh (GlaSS) work programme on the global goal on adaptation (GGA) at the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Singapore looks forward to contributing constructively to discussions and will work with other Parties to advance the objectives of the GlaSS work programme, which are key to “enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change”. Singapore aligns itself with the submission by AOSIS, and wishes to convey further inputs in our own national capacity on the work of the GGA and how it can contribute to the objectives of the GlaSS work programme.

In our view, work on the GGA should be guided by several key considerations.

- **First, the GGA and GlaSS work programme must be informed by best available science.** The IPCC, currently in its Sixth Assessment Cycle, has produced the Assessment Reports of its three Working Groups on the (a) physical science basis; (b) impacts, adaptation and vulnerability; and (c) mitigation of climate change. A Synthesis Report, due for release in September 2022, will further synthesise and integrate materials contained within the three Assessment Reports and the three Special Reports on Global Warming of 1.5°C, on Climate Change and Land, and on the Ocean and the Cryosphere in a Changing Climate. These reports provide crucial insights which should be unpacked and used as relevant to guide discussions on the GGA and the work of the GlaSS. As a start, we welcome the opportunity to engage the IPCC at the Subsidiary Bodies (SB) session in June 2022 on the findings in the IPCCAR6 WGII report, which could facilitate the rationalisation of key sectoral risks that could represent core elements for a global goal, drawing reference from the five system transitions identified in the IPCC AR6 WGII report, namely, (a) energy; (b) industry; (c) urban and infrastructure; (d) land and ocean ecosystems; and

(e) society, as well as other sources of scientific information. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of the CMA.3 decision, we encourage the SB Chairs to invite the IPCC to future workshops to engage in the GlaSS work programme by clarifying methodologies and other elements related to the GGA.

- **Second, the GlaSS work programme, notably the work on the GGA, needs to take a country-driven, bottom-up approach.** Adaptation Communications, which can take the form of National Communications, National Adaptation Plans or Nationally Determined Contributions, provide Parties with the opportunity to outline their adaptation priorities and options, and document implementation, progress, barriers and gaps. Accordingly, they provide a rich source of information to guide discussions on the GGA, including providing a bottom-up assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation actions and support provided for adaptation. For any outcomes to be policy relevant and effective, they must integrate adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, and address specific challenges at the national and local level.
- **Third, the GlaSS work programme, notably the work on the GGA, needs to strengthen adaptation action and support particularly for vulnerable developing countries, notably Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).** The IPCC AR6 WGII report has noted that although tracked climate finance has shown an upward trend since the release of the IPCC AR5 reports, current global financial flows for adaptation, including from public and private finance sources, are insufficient for and constrain implementation of adaptation options especially in developing countries. We therefore welcome the commitment by developed countries to at least double adaptation finance by 2025 from the 2019 level, towards achieving parity between mitigation finance and adaptation finance. With adaptation finance needs estimated to be higher than those presented in the IPCC AR5 reports, enhanced mobilisation of and access to financial resources are essential for implementation of adaptation and to reduce adaptation gaps. The GlaSS work programme would need to give this issue a specific focus, including considering effective ways to co-opt multilateral development banks (MDBs), other international financial institutions (IFIs) and the private sector in the mobilisation effort in order to deliver the scale of resources needed to achieve climate plans, particularly for adaptation. Critically, increased support for adaptation action, including through capacity building and partnerships, must make a positive impact on the ground in key areas such as enhancing food and water resilience.

- Fourth, while monitoring and evaluation is critical to ensure transparency and measure progress, **reporting frameworks should minimise the burden on developing countries**. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction share synergies on adaptation stocktaking. Further technical work is needed to assess relevance of their indicators, data, metrics, while noting the different remit these agreements serve. Additionally, and where possible, Parties should use established reporting frameworks, such as Adaptation Communications and the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) coming into effect in 2024, to convey information on their adaptation priorities, plans and progress.
- Fifth, the **GlaSS work programme, notably the work on the GGA, would need to take into account the interlinkages between adaptation and climate mitigation and where relevant find synergies to maximise the co-benefits of any action**. As the recently released IPCC AR6 WGII has shown, overshooting 1.5°C would lead to more severe impacts, some of which are irreversible. We need rapid, deep cuts in GHG emissions to keep the maximum number of adaptation pathways open. Greater levels of mitigation can reduce the need for additional adaptation efforts. At the same time, certain adaptation actions can also have mitigation co-benefits and vice-versa, i.e., certain mitigation actions may have adaptation co-benefits. The GlaSS work programme would need to consider such interlinkages and work to maximise the synergies between mitigation and adaptation actions.

Through the GlaSS work programme, Parties must come to a firmer understanding of the GGA, particularly how to measure and achieve it. The themes of the four workshops should correspond to the objectives set out in paragraph 7 of the CMA.3 decision. Provisions should be made for a broad range of non-Party stakeholders, including corporates, MDBs, IFIs, civil society organisations and academia, to participate in the work programme to ensure inclusivity. Additionally, as horizontal issues such as adaptation finance and sectoral partnerships are related to the discussion on the GGA, it would be useful to keep this in mind when organising discussions and work on the GlaSS work programme, in order that the four workshops produce meaningful outcomes. Closer coordination between the present and future COP Presidencies, presiding officers, and the constituent bodies, notably Adaptation Committee, Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), Nairobi Work Programme (NWP), Adaptation Fund Board, on how to advance the different mandates on adaptation given the interlinkages and importance of their work would also be helpful. The

GlaSS work programme should also seek and consider inputs from these bodies as appropriate.

Singapore will continue to participate actively and constructively in discussions on the GGA and work with other Parties to advance the objectives of the GlaSS work programme. As discussions progress, we look forward to contributing additional input as necessary to this important endeavour.

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