

Submission on Mitigation Work Programme (MWP) by the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC)

Context and Guiding Principles for the Mitigation Work Programme

1. This submission responds to the conclusions of the subsidiary bodies at its 56th Session on “Matters relating to the work programme for urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation referred to in paragraph 27 of decision 1/CMA.3”. In accordance with Paragraph 4 of the conclusions adopted, the SBSTA and the SBI invited Parties to submit their views on the work programme via the submission portal by 30 September 2022.

2. We would like to recall the following Articles of the Paris Agreement (PA), which provide the context for the mitigation work programme:
 - Article 2.1 (a) of the PA: *This Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by:(a) Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;*
 - Article 2.2 of the PA: *This Agreement will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.*
 - Article 4.1 of the PA: *In order to achieve the long-term temperature goal set out in Article 2, Parties aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that peaking will take longer for developing country Parties, and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with best available science, so as to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century, on the basis of equity, and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.*

- Article 4.4 of the PA: *Developed country Parties should continue taking the lead by undertaking economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets. Developing country Parties should continue enhancing their mitigation efforts, and are encouraged to move over time towards economy-wide emission reduction or limitation targets in the light of different national circumstances.*
 - Article 4.5 of the PA: *Support shall be provided to developing country Parties for the implementation of this Article, in accordance with Articles 9 (Finance), 10 (Technology) and 11 (Capacity building), recognizing that enhanced support for developing country Parties will allow for higher ambition in their actions.*
3. All the discussion under mitigation should conform to the principles and provisions of the Convention and its Paris Agreement. In this context, the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities must guide the MWP.
 4. Discussions on mitigation and means of implementation, in particular the provision of finance, are intrinsically linked to each other. Therefore, mitigation must be discussed in light of the means required by developing countries to undertake and implement mitigation action.
 5. There must be balanced progress in discussions on adaptation, loss and damage, the economic and social consequences of the impact of response measures and means of implementation, alongside mitigation.
 6. The work under the mitigation work programme must complement the GST without duplicating its process or any other existing processes in the Paris Agreement or the Convention.
 7. We do not expect the MWP to establish any new mandates. The MWP should not be prescriptive, nor infringe on the sovereign rights of countries. The MWP must be country driven and not undermine the character and scope of countries' NDCs, nor to push or even force countries to take actions beyond their respective NDCs. The MWP should be oriented to implement the provisions of the Article 4 of the Paris Agreement.

Scientific rationale

8. Developed countries bear the greatest responsibility for climate change. IPCC AR6 shows that the North America and Europe account for 23% and 16% of global historical cumulative anthropogenic CO₂ emissions from 1850-2019, the highest of all regions. IPCC AR6 also notes that production-based and consumption-based emissions per capita in North America are much higher than in other regions.
9. Developed countries' 2020 mitigation targets are not ambitious enough and not sufficiently implemented. The IPCC AR4 points out that to limit the global temperature rise well below 2°C, Annex I Parties need to reduce emissions by 25%-40% in 2020 compared to 1990, but with 1990 as the base year, the overall emissions reduction of Annex I Parties' 2020 targets is only 12.6% compared to 1990. According to the GHG inventory, as of 2019, many developed country Parties were still far from achieving their 2020 targets and rely on pandemic-induced emissions reductions to achieve goals, and some countries even have increased 2020 emissions compared to 1990.
10. According to institutional assessments, the mitigation measures taken by many developed countries are insufficient to ensure the implementation of their 2030 emission reduction targets.
11. Developing countries have made ambitious mitigation commitments and are taking proactive actions. However, developed countries have long failed to deliver on finance, technology, and capacity-building support to developing countries and undermined global mitigation efforts. Developed countries have not even fulfilled their USD 100 billion per year by 2020 commitment.

Scope of work under the MWP

12. The focus of the discussions should be around implementing mitigation contributions of Parties in the context of their National Determined

Contributions (NDC). The MWP should be a platform for information and knowledge sharing.

13. The MWP should discuss in earnest what mitigation ambition means and the enablers for developing countries to undertake ambitious mitigation action through sharing of experiences.

14. The MWP must discuss the following issues via workshops/dialogues over 2023:

- a. Equitable distribution of the carbon space between developed and developing countries.
- b. Barriers for low emissions transition and how to resolve them
- c. Just transition
- d. Economic diversification as a mitigation enabler and pathway for sustainable development
- e. Gaps between needs and resources available to undertake mitigation action in developing countries. Discussions must span financial, technology and capacity building gaps.
- f. Gaps, barriers, and challenges faced in achieving pre-2020 commitments by developed countries and solutions to address them
- g. Fair and equitable distribution of the remaining carbon budget in line with the principles of Equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, including significant net-negative emissions by developed countries before 2030 and onwards

15. The MWP must maintain the intergovernmental nature of the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, and any involvement of Non-party stakeholders must be of voluntary nature.

Duration of the MWP

16. The MWP should last a year for it to effectively complement the work of the GST. Starting immediately after COP27, and ending in COP28 with the first GST.

Institutional arrangements of the MWP

17. Since the MWP is only a space for information and knowledge sharing through limited number of workshops, there is no need of any institutional arrangement.

What the MWP must NOT do:

18. The MWP must not be a place to connect initiatives such as the Methane Pledge, which fall outside of the remit of UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement

19. The MWP should not become an NDC-plus programme, demanding sectoral, gas-specific, policy specific targets from all Parties and then tracking their implementation or demand developing countries to enhance their NDC's in a manner beyond the agreed time frames and cyclical process under the Paris Agreement.

20. The MWP must not be used to develop sectoral benchmarks, nor for creating additional reporting requirements beyond the reporting obligations under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework.

21. The MWP is not a scenario to legitimize mitigation initiatives outside the Convention.

22. The MWP must not duplicate the work of the Global Stocktake or been taken as frequency enhancement of mitigation targeted GST, and must not undermine its mandate to enhance collective ambition on all climate actions