



Australian Government

Submission 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

October 2022

Australia recognises the urgency of the global climate crisis and the need for all countries to strengthen climate ambition and implementation to keep 1.5 degrees within reach and to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

In light of this urgency, and in response to the Glasgow Climate Pact, Australia submitted an updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in June 2022 with an increased ambition to reduce emissions by 43% on 2005 levels by 2030. Australia also affirmed its target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Both targets were enshrined in legislation by the Australian Parliament in September 2022.

Australia is implementing new policies across the economy to drive the transition to net zero. These include a \$20 billion investment in Australia's electricity grid to unlock greater penetration of renewable energy, investment of up to \$3 billion from the new National Reconstruction Fund to support renewables manufacturing and the development of low emissions technologies, and a Powering the Regions Fund to support the development of new clean energy industries and decarbonisation of existing industries, among other policies¹.

Context for the Mitigation Work Program

While many Parties have now put forward new or enhanced commitments for 2030, the science is clear that further ambition will be required to meet our collective goals. Parties also face the shared challenge of accelerating implementation to ensure existing commitments are met.

In this regard, the establishment of the MWP is timely. It can play a critical role in accelerating ambition and implementation to 2030. Foundations set this decade can significantly impact what can be achieved in decades to come.

Despite the centrality of mitigation to the Paris Agreement, this is the first work program on mitigation action. Previous work streams on mitigation have focused on technical guidance such as for the preparation of NDCs and reporting.

COP27 must agree a robust work program for mitigation with clear modalities to take forward this important agenda and allow its urgent work to commence in 2023.

Scope of the MWP

The scope of the MWP is clear from its agreed mandate – to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade.

¹ Australia's enhanced NDC is available at <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/Australias%20NDC%20June%202022%20Update%20%283%29.pdf>

The work program can help Parties keep sight of, and maintain mutual pressure to, consider ongoing opportunities for **scaling up ambition** as technology and circumstances evolve. Such further ambition can arise through individual and collaborative actions and initiatives.

Implementation should be an increasing and substantive focus for work under the Paris Agreement and the global action agenda. The MWP provides an important opportunity for Parties to build understanding, collaboration and investment interest in key technologies and initiatives, including, for example, in clean energy, low emissions goods and services and international mitigation partnerships.

Design of the MWP

As key design features, the work program should:

- facilitate the active and inclusive participation of non-party stakeholders (NPS) including the private sector, research institutions and civil society – the substantive engagement of NPS is fundamental to an effective work program in light of their prominent role in global investment, research and in facilitating social inclusion and engagement,
- provide distinct ‘technical’ and ‘political’ spaces that allow both technical, expert-driven exchanges, and for negotiators and decision makers to build consensus outcomes, and
- ensure discussions are focused, have profile, and can facilitate concrete outcomes by limiting the selection of discussion topics to only a few issues per session.

Australia favours a simple and effective approach to the MWP with three components operating on an annual cycle:

1. INPUT COMPONENT

- a. In the first quarter of each year, Parties, observers and NPS are invited to make submissions on the topics for discussions.
- b. By April, a pair of Co-chairs, with the assistance of the Secretariat, will review submissions and determine a small and focused number of topics for the year.
- c. An online platform will operate throughout the year to collate submissions and (link to) other relevant inputs such as IPCC reports and UNFCCC Synthesis Reports on NDCs and Long-Term Strategies.

2. TECHNICAL COMPONENT

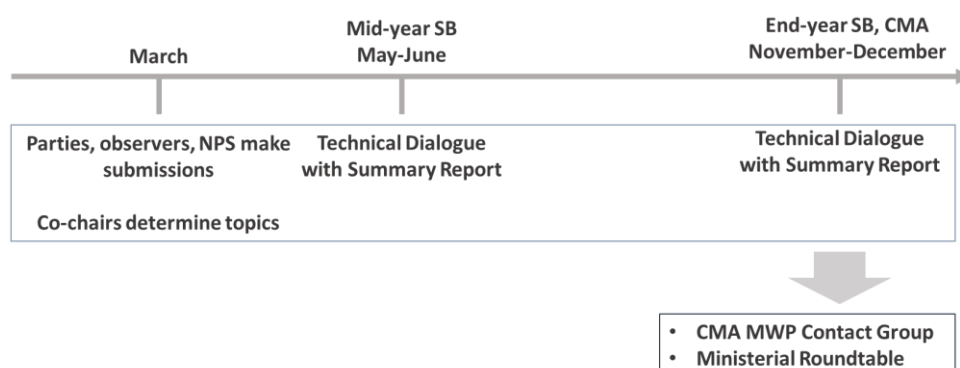
- a. At the mid-year and end-of-year UNFCCC Subsidiary Body (SB) meetings, Technical Dialogues are held with the full and substantial engagement of Parties, observers, and NPS, on the selected topics. The Co-chairs preside over these Dialogues.
- b. The Dialogues can include presentations, and technical and policy discussions with an overarching purpose to **enable and support the urgent scaling up of ambition and implementation**.
- c. Co-chairs, with the assistance of the Secretariat, will develop Summary Reports on the Dialogues, to be provided to Parties.

3. OUTPUT COMPONENT

- a. At the end of the year UNFCCC CMA session, Parties will reflect on the inputs, Dialogues and the Summary Reports and consider potential consensus outcomes through an ongoing CMA agenda item on the MWP.
- b. In addition, Parties can draw on the inputs, Dialogues and Summary Reports for their engagement in the already mandated Ministerial Roundtable on Mitigation, and

consider any consensus or elective/voluntary declarations, as appropriate, such as to profile new initiatives, collaborations and shared objectives.

Key annual events are illustrated in the diagram below.



The work program should commence in 2023 and run through to the end of the year UNFCCC CMA session in 2030. A review of the modalities of the work program can take place after a few years to consider ways to enhance its effectiveness.

Australia looks forward to a timely decision at COP27 to enable the urgent commencement of this important work program in 2023.

Potential Decision Elements

A list of key elements for a decision to reflect the above process is provided below.

- Establish a work program with following modalities and parameters:
 - Starts 2023 and concludes at the CMA session in 2030.
 - Has two annual Technical Dialogues (Dialogues) held in conjunction with SB sessions.
 - Invites submissions from Parties, Observers and non-Parties on the topics for the Dialogues by March each year. Requests Secretariat to provide a synthesis report on the submissions by April each year.
 - Parties to nominate two Co-chairs who, assisted by the Secretariat, will
 - select two discussion topics for each Dialogue, on the basis of submissions received, and
 - organise the Dialogues.
 - The Co-chairs will draft a Summary Report on each Dialogue which will
 - serve as input to the CMA agenda item on this work program for its consideration and to take any actions it deems suitable,
 - serve as input to the annual Ministerial Roundtable on mitigation, and
 - serve as input to the Global Stocktake in relevant years.
- The modalities of the work program can be reviewed before 2030 with view to enhance its effectiveness.
- The Dialogues will invite broad participation from non-party stakeholders. The co-chairs may invite representatives from relevant major organisations to provide presentations and reports to inform discussions.