

**Submission by the Russian Federation 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**

January 2023

The Russian Federation pursuant to paragraph 12 of decision FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/L17 of the Conference of the Parties to the Paris Agreement welcomes the opportunity to share its understanding of the guiding principles of the work programme for urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation (hereinafter referred to as the Work programme) and provide suggested topics for the global dialogues under the Work program scheduled for 2023.

I. Mandate, objective and outcomes of the Work programme

We believe that the mandate of the Work programme in this critical decade should be to scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in strict accordance with the temperature goal set out in paragraph 1(a) of Article 2 of the Paris Agreement that implies 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.

The objective of the Work programme should be a focused exchange of views, information and ideas to clarify ways and means to achieve the necessary ambition, training and promotion, and the provision of technical assistance on mitigation.

The outcomes of the Work programme should be presented in an annual report comprising a compilation of the individual dialogue reports and may contain information that complements the global stocktake. The outcomes of the Work programme will be non-prescriptive and non-punitive and will not impose new targets or goals as it is stated in paragraph 2 of FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/L17. The outcomes of the Work programme can inform the development of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to be submitted in 2025 in accordance with the decision 6/CMA.3, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.

II. Principles of selecting topics for the global dialogues

The Russian Federation identifies a set of principles in line with the scope of the Work programme referred to in paragraph 4 of FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/L17 to guide the choice of topics for global dialogues when discussing issues of urgent scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation, and that need to be addressed first hand.

National circumstances in achieving climate goals and just energy transition

The UNFCCC provides that the situation of the Parties with economies that are highly dependent on income generated from the production, processing and export and/or consumption of fossil fuels and associated energy-intensive products (paragraph 10, Article 4) should be taken into consideration and that policies and measures to protect the climate system against human-induced change should be appropriate for the specific conditions of each Party (paragraph 4 Article 3). In this regard, when discussing the issues of urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation, the socio-economic effects of low-carbon development, including the socio-economic risks and negative consequences of accelerated phasing-out of fossil fuels, should be taken into account. In particular, it refers to rising electricity prices, loss of jobs and capital expenditures on re-equipment of the facilities. The above-mentioned socio-economic risks and negative consequences should be counter-balanced by developing appropriate support measures and assistance mechanisms for the vulnerable groups.

The Low-carbon Development Strategy of the Russian Federation illustrates the integration of just energy transition in national climate policies. The geographical and climatic conditions of Russia precludes from abrupt and large-scale phase out of coal generation. Thus, low-carbon transition should be taken gradually while mitigating the risks of energy and social crises in certain regions, primarily those relying on coal production and use. A step-by-step approach suggests technological modernization of coal-fired thermal power plants (TPP), the development of new environmentally-friendly waste-free coal combustion processes, combined heat and power generation (cogeneration), that results in relatively low emissions intensity. We believe that the consideration of national circumstances in just energy transition can be implemented through a system of consistent measures aimed to gradually reduce GHG-intensive production.

Interlinkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Russian Federation proceeds from the universality and indivisibility of the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development. Mitigation measures under SDG 13 “Climate Action” should be co-beneficial for global energy security and SDG 7 “Affordable and Clean Energy”, as well as other SDGs, including SDG 2 “Zero Hunger”, SDG 3 “Good Health and Well-being”, SDG 8 “Decent work and Economic Growth”, SDG 9 “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure”.

Given that the Paris Agreement aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development, the Work programme should ensure that mitigation ambition and implementation are

addressed while contributing to other SDGs or at least not creating barriers to their achievement.

Wide range of low-emission technologies

The Russian Federation proceeds from the fact that when implementing policies and measures to tackle climate change, each Party has a national prerogative to determine its goals and ways to achieve them, taking into account national circumstances.

In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the whole range of low-emission solutions and technologies that contribute to the reduction and/or removal of GHGs should be considered. Advanced technological projects, including the use of nuclear and hydropower, carbon capture and storage, emissions abatement for coal generation, hydrogen energy, as well as natural gas as a transition fuels, should be equally treated as means to achieve the balance between anthropogenic emissions and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases.

For example, according to the IEA reports, nuclear power and hydropower can play an important role in achieving the balance between anthropogenic emissions and greenhouse gas absorption, but this will require at least doubling global nuclear and hydropower capacities from 2020 by 2050 (from 415 GW to 812 GW and from 1327 GW to 2599 GW respectively). At the same time, natural gas plays an important role in supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy. The combustion of 1 kg of natural gas releases only 1.30 kg of CO₂-eq, while the combustion of 1 kg of coal results in emission of 2.61 kg of CO₂-eq. The IEA estimates that in the short term, around 1.2 Gt of CO₂ could be reduced by switching from the coal-fired to gas-fired power.

Russian experience in the development and implementation of technologies for generating electricity at nuclear power plants, hydroelectric power plants and using natural gas, as well as specific technological solutions and regulatory practices to ensure environmental safety of such activities and socio-economic development can be scaled up and applied in interested countries.

Strengthening the role of ecosystem and technological solutions for greenhouse gas removals to achieve the global balance of greenhouse gas emissions and sequestration

According to the IPCC estimates, removals are necessary to achieve a net-zero in all scenarios. The scale of contribution of land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector and carbon capture and storage technologies may vary. For instance, in scenarios that allow to keep the temperature rise within 2°C, the accumulated removals due to the use of biofuels with carbon capture is estimated at 170-650 Gt of CO₂, for direct capture – up to 250 Gt of CO₂, in the agriculture and forestry sector – in the range of 10-250 Gt of CO₂.

In particular, UN experts list forest protection among the most affordable means to tackle climate change. Forests absorb up to 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide per year. The implementation of a forest-related set of measures to tackle climate change will significantly reduce harmful emissions into the atmosphere and help to achieve the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement. In addition, forests can support the reduction of fossil fuels use, since wood provides up to 40% of renewable energy.

Russia prioritizes building up and improving the quality of sinks in the LULUCF sector as part of national Low-carbon Development Strategy. To achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, extensive reforestation, monitoring and control of forest use, as well as expansion of specially protected natural territories are envisaged.

Free access to technologies and investment for sustainable development

Investments in low-emission and sustainable technologies are essential for achieving global climate goals. Advanced climate-neutral technologies should be available to all countries, for example, through a technology transfer mechanism with no- or low-costs to all countries in need. Policies and measures to deal with climate change must be cost-effective, climate technologies and financing must be affordable and sufficient.

Non-discriminatory approach to international climate cooperation

Measures to tackle climate change should not constitute to discrimination in international trade, impair the economic situation of other countries and hamper their sustainable development. No Party to international climate process should face any barriers or artificial restrictions to undertake activities and measures that mitigate anthropogenic impact on climate, as those steps are contributing to common goals. This means that no unilateral restrictive measures can be applied to projects, areas of cooperation and organizations that are involved in the achievement of climate goals.

Increasing the role of the private sector in the implementation of the climate agenda

To solve the problem of climate change, Parties need to work closely with the private sector. Its role is increasingly important due to the urge to mobilize financial resources and implement technological and innovative solutions for the low-carbon transition.

In Russia, an increasing number of corporate strategies and net-zero plans encompass GHG emissions reduction goals. The Russian Federation welcomes a dedicated financing event to be held in 2023 under the Work Programme to identify investment opportunities and actionable solutions for mitigation by the public and private business community.

III. Proposed topics of the global dialogues in 2023

The Russian Federation, taking into account the principles outlined above, suggests the following topics as priorities for the global dialogues in 2023:

1. Socio-economic effects for coal regions and contribution to the implementation of sustainable development goals in the context of a just energy transition;
2. Nuclear, hydropower and natural gas as low-emission technological solutions;
3. Carbon sequestration through technological and ecosystem solutions.