



**Submission by South Africa in response to the invitation to Parties in paragraph 12<sup>1</sup> of FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/L.17<sup>2</sup> on topics in line with the scope of the work programme referred to in paragraph 4<sup>3</sup>, to be discussed under the dialogues.**

**01 February 2023**

South Africa is pleased to suggest topics in line with the scope of the work programme for urgently scaling-up mitigation ambition and implementation, in response to the relevant CMA decision in Sharm el-Sheikh (November 2022) referred to above, paragraph 12. We focus here on topics to be discussed in the global dialogues in 2023, understanding that further topics will be discussed in the following years, up to 2026.

## **1. Framing and Context**

The Mitigation Work Programme (MWP) is to be understood in the context of other work programmes, including on the Global Goal on Adaptation, the Glasgow Dialogue on Loss and Damage, the New Quantified Collective Goal on finance, and Just Transitions. These work programmes must complement, and not duplicate or replace, the global stocktake (GST). The

---

<sup>1</sup> In the same decision referred to in footnote 2.

<sup>2</sup> Decisions taken at CMA 4 in Shar El-Sheikh have not yet been numbered. We have used the L document reference in the absence of any other identifier. The decision referred to here can be found with other COP/CMA/CMP decisions at <https://unfccc.int/cop27/auv>, and specifically at <https://unfccc.int/documents/624428>. The full title of the decision is “Matters relating to the work programme for urgently scaling-up mitigation ambition and implementation referred to in paragraph 27 of decision 1/CMA.3”.

<sup>3</sup> In the same decision referred to in footnote 2. This paragraph refers to “the work programme for urgently scaling-up mitigation ambition and implementation”, referred to in this submission as the mitigation work programme.

GST is the permanent mechanism under the Paris Agreement for scaling-up ambition, across all elements, every five years, in the light of equity and best available science.

South Africa approaches all parts of the multilateral climate change negotiations held under the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement based on science and equity, and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. Equity is a critical enabler for scaling-up mitigation, especially as the buy-in of all stakeholders is important for full implementation. The science is clear: four-fifths of the Global Carbon Budget (GCB), consistent with a 50:50 chance of limiting global warming to 1.5 °C, has already been spent ( $2400 \pm 240$  Gt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq from 1850 to 2019), which is why only 500 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq of CO<sub>2</sub>, representing an additional 0.43° C, can be emitted before 1.5 °C would be overshoot (based on the current level of 1.07 °C increase) .<sup>4</sup> We all know that most of the historical GCB was emitted by developed countries, and must also accept that we all have responsibility for the future.

Implementation is an essential part of mitigation ambition. The MWP should therefore have as its core focus implementation of the mitigation component of NDCs. This should include implementation of current updated NDCs and further mitigation ambition through NDCs – voluntary with international climate finance support. Implementation of domestic mitigation measures in all countries, with international support needed in some. Implementation of existing commitments is an essential basis for unlocking meaningful further mitigation ambition. The MWP can also consider how to enhance international cooperation in support of implementing ambitious mitigation, under the multilateral rules-based regime.

## **2. Topics**

South Africa proposes the following topics (in bold font), with an explanation and background (in regular font):

### **2.1 Good practice in rapidly scaling-up zero-carbon electricity supply and electrification of transport and industry and challenges in different contexts:**

Such a dialogue should be non-prescriptive and avoid targeting single sectors. Countries must retain flexibility on how overall mitigation targets are achieved. Developed countries should demonstrate leadership across all sectors, and most

---

<sup>4</sup> IPCC AR6, WGI Table SPM.2 and WGIII SPM para B.1.3.

notably, buy down mitigation costs in hard-to-abate sectors. Once technologies for low and zero emissions systems have been developed, developing countries must be given equitable access to such technologies, at affordable cost.

**2.2 Provision of support for implementing NDCs:** based on meeting support obligations (Article 9) and the mobilization goal (Art 9.3), and scaling-up massively beyond.

**2.3 Financing just (energy) transitions:** Just Energy Transitions support developing countries to move away from high emissions to low emissions energy sources, while ensuring no-one is left behind. Implementation of a JET is complex and will differ by context. Yet some implementation attributes will be common – including finance. JETs need to start implementation urgently, though they may take a long time to implement. Just transitions are not limited to the energy sector or to mitigation, and indeed equity means that adverse climate change impacts on poor and vulnerable communities must be avoided through climate resilient development. The MWP should focus on financing frameworks for just transitions at the multilateral level, in order to ensure scale up programmatic finance, with appropriate terms and conditions, to facilitate developing country climate action. Financing just transitions is critical to ambition in mitigation, and must reflect increased ambition in relation to finance as well.

For future dialogues, South Africa considers that it may be useful to have detailed discussions on models and scenarios, unpacking the role of global Integrated Assessment Models (IAMs) and national modeling, to inform ambition and equity, in manner that is sensitive to context and development priorities, based on best available science.

### **3. Process**

On process, South Africa requests the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies to communicate as soon as possible the names of the co-chairs who have been appointed for 2023 and 2024. Furthermore, it is important that each of the global dialogues features inputs from a diversity of experts, covering a wide range of expertise and with sub-regional representivity and gender balance. We request the co-chairs to ensure that a diversity of information is presented, encompassing the diverse national circumstances of all Parties to the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement. We intend to provide further views on good practices and opportunities, as well as barriers and challenges, once the co-chairs have chosen topics for the first dialogue.

We all agreed in Sharm el-Sheikh that the work programme shall be operationalized through focused exchanges of views, information and ideas, and that the outcomes of the work

programme will be non-prescriptive, non-punitive and facilitative. South Africa is of the view that this means that the decision at CMA.5 must be written in language which fully respects and reflects this, encouraging Parties to rapidly scale-up mitigation ambition, identifying opportunities and creative ways to overcome obstacles faced by developing countries in realising opportunities.

South Africa looks forward to exchanging views with other Parties during the dialogues and sessions.