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MITIGATION WORK PROGRAMME: SUGGESTED TOPICS SUBMISSION TO UNFCCC

This is a submission on suggested topics for dialogues taking place under the work programme on mitigation ambition and implementation, in line with its scope as agreed at COP27.

Approach to the mitigation work programme (MWP)

Current global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are off pace for limiting warming to 1.5C. Recent COPs have requested Parties to revisit and strengthen their targets in NDCs. Yet current NDCs are not collectively aligned with a 1.5C pathway and implementation of these targets is too slow. The MWP is therefore an important process at the UNFCCC for collaborative and inclusive discussions around how to scale up mitigation in this critical decade.

The MWP is not the only forum for collaboration on mitigation. Other venues and initiatives such as *inter alia* the G7, G20, the Clean Energy Ministerial, the IEA or other plurilateral climate alliances and partnerships all serve to enhance international cooperation on climate change.

In this context, the MWP should aim to fill gaps in the existing governance landscape for global mitigation cooperation:

- > Most of the current mitigation initiatives are focused on building action among selective champion groups (for example, initiatives such as the Powering Past Coal Alliance and the Forests and Land Use Partnership). **In contrast the MWP as a multilateral process is a valuable chance to address accelerating action and removing barriers to implementation for all Parties, not just front-runners.**
- > To achieve this, **the MWP's function as a space for learning and peer exchange will be key to driving faster implementation.** To be most effective in the growing space of mitigation initiatives, **dialogues under the MWP should be clearly action-oriented:** there should be a format to present



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practical outcomes which are clearly linked to the process of enhancing domestic mitigation action and collaborations between Parties aimed to overcoming barriers to accelerated mitigation. **This should also encompass shared learnings about national-level governance systems that could strengthen domestic implementation** (for example framework legislation, scientific advisory bodies, and democratic scrutiny mechanisms).

- > The MWP can also help ensure existing efforts play a role in accelerating implementation, in turn laying foundations for higher NDC ambition from Parties. The MWP can operate as a multilateral connective tissue linking initiatives to increased ambition through the ratchet cycle. **Dialogues under the MWP should seek to inform global understanding of 1.5C aligned climate transitions at the political level, informing outcomes from the annual high-level ministerial roundtable and COP decision text.**

We strongly recommend that attendance at these dialogues extends beyond traditional UNFCCC audiences to ensure that attendees with relevant expertise can make contributions to the discussions. We would expect the co-chairs of the MWP to encourage Parties be represented by officials from relevant line ministries (e.g. Ministries of Energy or Finance) rather than climate negotiators, and to welcome broad and deep participation of non-Party stakeholders (e.g. from progressive business groups and civil society organisations). This should also include inputs from relevant international organisations including the IEA and IRENA, for example.

Suggested topics for the MWP

Overall focus: Energy systems transformation

The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report Working Group III is clear that limiting warming to Paris Agreement levels requires “rapid and deep reductions” in energy system emissions over the next 30 years.¹ Removing polluting energy sources requires the transformation of established energy systems and new approaches for where these are developing. **Dialogues under the MWP offer an opportunity to further explore how transformative action can be unlocked in this area, including unblocking key shared barriers (e.g. financial, social, economic, capacity and governance) to accelerated decarbonisation.** This will also functionally help Parties implement many components of the mitigation elements of the Glasgow Climate Pact and the Sharm El Sheikh Implementation Plan.

¹ IPCC AR6 WGIII, Chapter 6: Energy Systems



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Dialogue #1: Making fossil fuel free growth and development possible

The first dialogue of the MWP could focus on pathways for an orderly, just phase out of fossil fuels. Existing and currently planned fossil fuel infrastructure are projected to result in emissions exceeding pathways for limiting warming to 1.5C (with no or limited overshoot). According to the IEA, no new oil and gas fields can be approved for development under a 1.5C pathway.

The dialogue would create a forum for Parties to collectively identify the pathways for phasing out fossil fuels. It could also move the discussion towards building understanding of what delivering such pathways would require, including identifying technical, financial, and political barriers to fossil fuel phase out and generating shared solutions to overcome such barriers.

Insights from existing Party and Non-Party initiatives could be sought to illustrate the extensive work already being undertaken by climate actors and to help identify concrete solutions to the challenge. This could include the Powering Past Coal Alliance, the COP26 Energy Transition Council, and the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance, and from established and emerging just transition mechanisms, including the EU Just Transition Mechanism, the MDB Just Transition High-Level Principles, and the Just Energy Transition Partnerships (South Africa, Indonesia, Vietnam).

Dialogue could support peer learning on how these initiatives are being developed and implemented and help build confidence in just transition plans and sectoral pathways, including Paris-aligned coal, oil, and gas phase out pathways. Priority areas include roadmaps for technology development and transfer as this will promote a more just transition and support closing the job gap that will be created by transition away from fossil fuels. Peer learning could include roadmaps on technology transfer, leveraging of partnership and finance (including from carbon markets or debt-for-climate swaps) for implementation of energy transition plans, and what countries can do to benefit from the falling costs of renewable energy technologies.

Dialogue #2: Building clean energy economies

Phase-out of fossil fuels alone is only one side of the energy transition; **accompanying it with a rapid, just, and at-scale shift to clean energy alternatives will be critical.**

According to the IPCC AR6 WG3, global wind and solar PV capacity and generation have increased rapidly due to rapid cost reductions in these



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technologies (prices dropped 56% and 45% from 2015 to 2020, respectively). Understanding how to capitalise on and continue these trends will be critical to implementation of mitigation measures for limiting warming to 1.5C.

The dialogue could focus on identifying actions required to deliver 1.5C-aligned pathways for scaling up energy efficiency and renewable energy systems.

Within that, an exchange on planning secure clean energy systems, financing for deployment as well as on how countries can collaborate to develop manufacturing and clean supply chains for the transition with benefits for their economies could be particularly instructive. A particular focus on regional approaches would be instructive.

Stakeholders from across the clean energy ecosystem could be invited to participate, including representatives from multilateral and regional development banks and private sector financial institutions. Existing initiatives focused on the deployment of clean energy solutions could be valuable participants, sharing insights from projects such as the Clean Energy Ministerial, Mission Innovation and the Glasgow Breakthroughs.

Further dialogues

Further dialogues (either globally or at regional climate weeks) could provide opportunities to explore other important dimensions of the MWP's overarching focus on energy systems transformation. This could include a focus on demand-side action, scaling-up energy efficiency, and enhancing energy access.

Potential MWP outcomes in 2023

Activities focusing on the topic of energy systems transformation can tangibly contribute to the objective of the MWP to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation this critical decade. These include:

- > Actionable national and regional-level interventions that Parties could make to further implement the energy-related components of their NDCs
- > Strengthened international cooperation including through delivering and expanding partnerships for implementing just energy transitions (e.g. JET-Ps)
- > Further commitments and accelerated progress for energy transition under existing initiatives (e.g. PPCA)
- > New commitments in the COP28 decision text (e.g. on the phase out of fossil fuels and uptake of clean energy)
- > All the above outcomes could subsequently also motivate Parties to raise the ambition of their energy transition targets to be communicated in new NDCs



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Contact:

Tom Evans

Policy Advisor, Climate Diplomacy and Geopolitics

tom.evans@e3g.org

About E3G

E3G is an independent climate change think tank with a global outlook. We work on the frontier of the climate landscape, tackling the barriers and advancing the solutions to a safe climate. Our goal is to translate climate politics, economics and policies into action.

E3G builds broad-based coalitions to deliver a safe climate, working closely with like-minded partners in government, politics, civil society, science, the media, public interest foundations and elsewhere to leverage change.

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