

**UNFCCC Mitigation and Ambition Work Programme**  
**Global Dialogue Themes Submission**  
**January 31, 2023**

**Introduction**

The 2050 Pathways Platform welcomes the COP27 decision to enact a 4-year Mitigation Work Programme (MWP). Parties' long-term low GHG emissions development strategies (LT LEDS) are key to achieving the net-zero global mitigation goals, halting global warming, and preventing some of the worst impacts of climate change.

Undoubtedly, countries recognise the role that long-term strategies play in the transition toward net-zero emissions and climate resilient economies. As of 2022, the number of countries committed to reaching net-zero totaled over 130, while the number of LT LEDS submitted to the UNFCCC came in at 57. And LT LEDS submissions are expected to grow. As an increasing number of countries are in process of developing and/or updating their LTS based on the latest scientific findings as called for in article IV, titled "Mitigation", section 33 of the Glasgow Climate Pact.

The gap between net-zero ambition and concrete plans in how to realize these goals signals the impending need for support. Countries intending to regularly update their LT LEDS as well as those that have yet to draw their socio-economic, policy and emissions trajectories towards net-zero have and will face common hurdles that would benefit from collective discussion on countries respective lessons learned.

In addition, countries that have not committed to reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), nor have had the opportunity to draw longer-term plans to decouple their socio-economic development from GHG should not be left out in these discussions. As countries strive towards understanding how to best engage their energy and economy-wide transitions to net-zero, their ability to elaborate robust LT LEDS will be critical to align various sectors' efforts with their long-term goals.

Dedicated sessions on developing and operationalizing LT LEDS and mainstreaming<sup>1</sup> it into the forthcoming MWP Global Meetings would be beneficial at different levels in order to:

- strengthen the Paris Agreement commitments and related processes, such as the alignment of NDCs with long-term goals;
- enhance the capacity of Parties to elaborate robust and coherent sectoral transition strategies to net-zero; and
- guide Parties towards institutional settings and policy-making apt to drive needed socio-economic transformations.

The 2050 Pathways Platform Secretariat proposes that the following concepts and topics are featured during the Mitigation Work Programme's upcoming Global Dialogue Meetings:

## **I. Best practice exchange: LT LEDS development & operationalization**

Long-term strategies can serve to map out an aspirational vision for the future. Laying out socio-economic and sectoral pathways for reaching both a country's ambitious climate and sustainable development goals.

As Parties' government bodies do not always include long-term perspectives or planning, LT LEDS have created the opportunity to identify measures necessary to achieve long-term socio-economic transformations to low carbon or climate neutrality beyond the policies adopted to reach NDC goals.

Taking a long-term view across sectors and broader socio-economic priorities can enable countries to:

- prioritize actions that avoid locking in carbon-intensive technologies, land use, and infrastructure;
- identify and start addressing trade-offs that may emerge among government, private sector, and sub-national stakeholders;
- anticipate measures to ensure a just transition for citizens' livelihoods tied to high-emission sectors.

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<sup>1</sup> If a thematic topic on LT-LEDs is not possible, an alternative option could be to mainstream LT LEDS discussions into other thematic sessions taking place during the MWP Global Meetings.

This process in turn can inform the alignment of NDCs, as pathways and investment needs are laid out for the specific sectors, as part of a coherent view to achieving the country's longer term low-GHG objectives.

Facilitating dialogues amongst a diversity of experiences on the challenges and opportunities of LT LEDS (scope, process, methods of elaboration, and strategic outcomes) will provide both a platform for learning exchange to refine Parties' processes, and generate novel ideas, and inspiration for Parties who aim to submit new or revise their LT LEDS. Informed discussions can be held on the types of governance, policy and regulatory changes that are necessary to drive economies to climate neutrality.

## **II. Integrated Planning**

LT LEDS is too often understood as a purely environmental strategy or a GHG monography. Thus, there are risks that 1) insufficient political attention is garnered and 2) LT LEDS is developed in isolation from day-to-day policy discussions. This in turn affects the coherence with national as well as international policy processes.

Collective discussion on this topic will enable countries to exchange perspectives on how integrated planning has been valuable and how it can be executed in discussion across broad sets of stakeholders. Such actions will support a whole of society buy-in and allow for more informed discussions on the topic of just transition.

## **III. Modelling capability around land use**

As countries plan their transitions towards net-zero, land use as a sector is emerging as critical. The issue must be considered from the perspective of both agriculture, biodiversity, as well as how land can be efficiently utilized as sinks for the remainder of emissions that cannot be mitigated.

There are very few countries that have managed to conduct precise modelling around this theme. Overarching technical challenges that predominantly emerge relate to the lack of in-country capacity and capability to conduct long-term modelling as well as a lack of or non-existent comprehensive databases from which modelling and policy choices can be accurately derived.

A thematic discussion on this would enable more countries - including the most vulnerable - to manage their land use as well as their agriculture sectors. Allowing for competing priorities to be effectively managed and development of robust policy and regulatory frameworks.

#### **IV. A whole of society approach**

The transition to net-zero must be organized in a way that social justice remains at the heart of climate action. Climate policy does not only seek to reduce emissions, but it also unavoidably intersects with many other dimensions of policy making. It is critical that stakeholders are given a space to be included, informed, and allowed a meaningful response to long-term policy plans.

In the experience of the 2050 Pathways Platform, Parties have found innovative frameworks to consistently engage stakeholders throughout the duration of the LT LEDS process. Despite these efforts, inclusive stakeholder engagement remains an area of concern for citizens as many stakeholders, including marginalized communities feel left out in the transition.

To effectively embed justice in the heart of the net-zero transition, a whole of society approach is imperative. The MWP stands to benefit tremendously from having consistent discussion on effective methods and ways to engage stakeholders in sectoral as well as cross-cutting policy discussions.

There are many country examples and methods such as citizen assemblies, presidential commissions, or online consultations that have been used and experiences from it could be shared widely.

#### **V. Investment friendly LT LEDS**

When a country submits its LT LEDS, that is just the beginning of the journey towards low-GHG or net-zero socio-economic development. Many countries face challenges in implementation and require further support to translate these plans into concrete policies and investment friendly packages.

Parties would benefit in the MWP to have discussions with donor agencies and other financial institutions on how best to shape these policies to be investment ready as well as what are some of the best practices to follow on that.

Multilateral development banks, bilateral donors and UNFCCC financing mechanisms could also be invited to share their existing support programmes to LT LEDS, allowing an exchange of experiences in financing implementation measures towards net-zero objectives.

## **Conclusion**

As decision makers face the prospect of shifting to low emission economies, clear paths are needed to navigate risks and pitfalls and avoid adding pressure on citizen's livelihoods and quality of life.

LT LEDS is a cornerstone policy instrument in enabling a global just transition and fulfilling the Paris Agreement's commitments.

Dedicated, collective discussions within the MWP's Global Thematic Dialogues on best practices for developing and operationalization of LT LEDS, integrated planning, modelling capability around land use, whole of society approach and investment friendly LT LEDS will help countries develop robust plans in service of Article 2 of the Paris Agreement.

Giving space and recognition to LT LEDS by featuring it as a key theme in the MWP will serve to reinforce LT LEDS as a concept, practice, and instrument. Solidifying LT LEDS as a crucial policy tool to elaborate a transparent way forward for countries that need to take concrete and informed steps for effective climate action.