

## Submission from Norway on topics for Mitigation Work Programme in 2023

Norway welcomes the opportunity to provide our view on topics for the Mitigation Work Programme. Norway's suggested topic for the mitigation work programme in 2023 is **energy transition**.

The topic should be drawn from the scope of the work programme, i.e. be based on broad thematic areas relevant to urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade and include all sectors covered in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, thematic areas in the contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and relevant enabling conditions, technologies, just transitions and cross-cutting issues.

A lot of relevant work has been undertaken on these issues under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, both through the TEM-M process and the work of the Constituted Bodies.

### Reasons for why the energy transition should be the topic in 2023:

The objective of the work programme is to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade in a manner that complements the global stocktake. In Norway's view, the objective implies we should start our work on topics where the **potential for emission reductions are the highest**. For the first year of the work programme we should prioritise measures where it will take time to for **required system changes to take effect**.

According to IPCC WGIII's report chapter 6, the global energy system is the largest source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Reducing energy sector emissions is therefore essential to limit global warming. **Further, the warming cannot be limited to well below 2°C without rapid and deep reductions in energy system carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.**

The IPCC WG III report as well as the technical dialogues in the global stocktake have highlighted that the energy transition has started, and that renewables in many cases are becoming an economically viable energy source. However, the global energy system and global energy investments are still predominantly focused towards fossil fuel solutions. The transition therefore needs to be reinforced and stimulated substantially.

**The IPCC report states that there are multiple energy supply options available to reduce emissions over the next decade.** However, a finding is also that it will not be possible to widely deploy all of the existing options and other options without efforts to address the geophysical, environmental-ecological, economic, technological, socio-cultural, and institutional factors that can facilitate or hinder their implementation. To include enabling conditions, technologies, just transition and cross-cutting issues in the work program discussion on this topic will therefore be important.

**The topic of energy transition also fits well with the Parties' decisions at the last COPs.** Parties have resolved to pursue further efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C. At COP26 and COP27 the Parties agreed to accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies, and the adoption of policies, to transition towards low-emission energy systems, including by rapidly scaling up the deployment of clean power generation and energy efficiency measures, including accelerating efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while providing targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for support towards a just transition.

In the "energy" chapter of The Sharm El Sheikh Implementation plan, Parties gave important signals regarding the need for energy transition through paragraph 12, 13 and 14. For example, Parties

stressed the importance of enhancing a clean energy mix, including low-emission and renewable energy, at all levels as part of diversifying energy mixes and systems, in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for support towards just transition.

**The IPCC report already gives a solid basis of solutions to consider for energy transition that Parties and non-party stakeholders can share their expertise and experience on.** Opportunities for emission reductions identified by the IPCC Report WGIII include a substantial reduction in the overall fossil fuel use, minimal use of unabated fossil fuels, deep reduction of methane emissions by 2030, use of CCS and widespread electrification of the energy system including end uses. The IPCC report also points out that policy packages tailored to national contexts and technological characteristics have been effective in supporting low-emission innovation.

**We need to strengthen the energy transition, and by choosing this as a topic for the mitigation work programme in 2023 it could enable more parties and non-party stakeholders to strengthen their work on energy transition.** Discussing opportunities, best practices, challenges and barriers, and identifying actionable solutions relevant to energy transition under the mitigation work programme will in our view be valuable for Parties when following up on our decisions.

#### Organisation

For Norway, it is important that the dialogues are action-oriented and can bring participants further in their work towards reducing emissions. It is therefore important that the dialogues are organized in a way that can both facilitate ambitious outcomes in the UNFCCC-processs, as well as outcomes that lead to actual implementation of climate policies “on the ground”. It is therefore very important to build on existing work under the Convention and the Paris Agreement such as the TEM-M process and the work of Constituted Bodies. Active participation of representatives from Parties and from non-party stakeholders, especially gender, youth and indigenous peoples, is necessary, both in the planning of the dialogues and when carrying out the dialogues.

According to the decision, the secretariat should organize the dialogues under the guidance of the two appointed co-chairs in a manner as to facilitate a focused exchange of views, information, and ideas, as well as active participation and interaction between parties and non-party stakeholders. The dialogues should be set in a way that facilitates informal discussion and actual knowledge sharing. It is important that participants can interact informally and have an open discussion. The co-chairs and the secretariat should therefore seek to arrange the dialogues in a format that goes beyond the regular “workshop”-mode.

There is an important link between the work programme and the annual ministerial roundtable round table on pre-2030 ambition on mitigation. The timing of the dialogues are important, and they should be arranged in a way that ensures that the co-chairs can give the ministers a useful summary of the work under the mitigation work programme to enhance their further discussion and possible recommendations in the roundtable.

#### Possible sub-topics

The topic energy transition could include several sub-topics such as:

- High impact mitigation technologies in the energy sector
- Rapid scale up of renewable energy, and securing a stable baseload electricity production in a system with intermittency
- Economic measures to incentivize the energy transition towards use of renewables, such as carbon pricing
- National systems of innovation that promote renewable energies

- Absorption capacity for renewable technologies of developing countries, especially SIDS and LDCs
- Grid development, and off grid solutions
- Co-benefits of (renewable) energy transition
- Indigenous and endogenous capacities
- Involvement of regional and local stakeholders

*Views on topics of the mitigation work programme towards 2026:*

In Norway's view, choosing one or two topics with a high mitigation potential to focus on throughout a year can facilitate focused discussions and enable more concrete and actionable outcomes. As energy transition is a very broad topic, our view is this should be the only topic this year, with several sub-topics.

There are other areas that have great potential to reduce emissions significantly before 2030. We would highlight the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems including share experience on nature-based solutions and ecosystem based approaches for mitigation action and reductions of methane emissions and other short-lived climate forcers. We believe these are important topics that are crucial to have as topics in the Mitigation Work Programme towards 2026. We will not be able to achieve emissions reductions needed before 2030 without significant progress in these areas.

However, this year we believe we should start with the topic of energy transition as it requires time to carry out broad system change, and it needs time to impact global emissions as soon as possible.