

Mitigation Work Programme
Submission by the United States of America
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Context and Mandate

In Glasgow and Sharm El-Sheikh, Parties further resolved to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C, recognizing that the impacts of climate change will be much lower at the temperature increase of 1.5°C compared with 2°C. Per the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, achieving this goal under any scenario (i.e., via any global mean temperature overshoot magnitude and duration) requires peaking global carbon dioxide by 2025, cutting global greenhouse gas emissions by at least 45% in this critical decade, and reaching net zero emissions around midcentury.

Aggregate efforts towards these objectives have fallen short to date. If all NDC, long-term strategy, and non-Party stakeholder targets are met, the International Energy Agency estimates that the global average temperature will rise to 1.7°C by 2100; yet current implementation of those plans would lead the world to a 2.4°C global average temperature by 2100.

Parties have a rapidly-closing window of time to respond to this crisis, and we should use every tool at our disposal to do so. It is in this context that Parties established a work programme for “urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade” (hereinafter the “Mitigation Work Programme” or “MWP”) (1/CMA.3). The MWP is an opportunity for Parties and non-Party stakeholders to share and coalesce around knowledge that can unlock the additional climate ambition and faster implementation we need in this critical decade.

Specifically, the MWP should aspire to result in:

1. Information, examples, and models that will assist Parties as they **develop and communicate strengthened 2030 NDCs and new 2035 NDCs** that are in line with the Paris Agreement temperature goal;
2. New knowledge, ideas, connections, and impetus to **facilitate and inspire countries to take mitigation action** in this decade;
3. Inspiration for **joining new or existing multilateral initiatives** by Parties and other stakeholders;
4. Clear signals for **investment and finance flows** towards areas of opportunity to accelerate mitigation;
5. **Negotiated CMA outcomes**, e.g., that respond to or provide guidance to Parties related to the work of the MWP.

Proposed Topics for 2023 MWP

Recognizing the mandate of the MWP to “urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade,” the MWP dialogue topics should have broad relevance to Parties, with an acute focus on topics that yield the greatest mitigation results by 2030, this critical decade. Below are topics the United States proposes as topics to consider for the global dialogues for 2023.

- Accelerating the energy transition is fundamental to achieving a net zero world. Addressing opportunities of widespread relevance will help accelerate the transition

towards zero-emission energy sources. Within this, several specific topics could assist countries in moving forward specific elements of an energy transition, for example:

- **Zero-emission vehicles (both light and heavy duty):** Transportation currently accounts for around one-fifth of global CO₂ emissions. Accelerating the transition to a zero-emission fleet would significantly reduce one of the largest sources of emissions in nearly every country.
 - **Enhancing energy grids to maximize the share of renewables in the power sector and enable the displacement of unabated fossil fuel investments:** Electricity and heat production comprise around one-quarter of global GHG emissions. One major and common barrier to increasing the share of renewable energy in this sector is the need to adapt and/or expand existing grids. Addressing this challenge could help accelerate the transition towards renewable energy globally.
- To put the world on a pathway to 1.5°C, we need to deliver the greatest mitigation possible in this critical decade. The MWP could focus on the solutions with the greatest potential to reduce global GHG emissions in this critical decade:
 - **Reducing non-CO₂ gas emissions, including expanding NDCs to cover all non-CO₂ gases:** Given the potency of non-CO₂ gases, halting emissions of gases like methane, nitrous oxide, and f-gases has the potential to make a significant and fact impact on global temperature rise.
 - **Halting global deforestation by 2030, including harmonizing such efforts with NDC targets and implementation plans:** Achieving collective goals to end global deforestation by 2030 would eliminate around 10% of global GHG emissions, and have a significant near-term effect of limiting global temperature rise.
 - **Reducing emissions associated with investments in new infrastructure in the electricity, buildings, and industrial sectors,** to avoid locking in fossil fuel infrastructure
- **Synchronizing NDC targets; intermediary milestones; and mid-century, net zero targets:** Many countries have set out ambitious long-term, low-emissions development strategies that lead towards net-zero global emissions around mid-century. Harmonizing the targets of NDCs communicated in 2025 with these net-zero goals will increase the consistency of national objectives and strategies and will ensure short- and medium-term objectives are in line with the urgency the science determines instructs we act with to keep 1.5° C within reach.

In subsequent years, dialogue topics should cover the full range of sectors, again drawing from topics that have broad relevance to Parties and that would most advance ambition and implementation in this critical decade.

Additional Notes on MWP Design Framings

The United States views the MWP as an opportunity to engage the full range of stakeholders integral to climate ambition in a dynamic set of dialogues that will advance collective knowledge and spur the additional action needed to put the world on a path to keep 1.5°C within reach. Dialogues should include direct engagement by practitioners and implementers, technical

experts, financiers and investors, policymakers at different levels of government, civil society, and other stakeholders relevant to a specific topic. Webcasting the dialogues will ensure the discussion reaches, and benefits, a wide range of stakeholders around the world, further expanding the potential real-world impact of the MWP on ambition and implementation efforts around the globe.

The CMA decision taken in Sharm El-Sheikh on the MWP created the opportunity to organize regional in-person or hybrid dialogues, potentially organized around regional Climate Weeks or other convenings of key stakeholders. We recommend organizing at least three regional dialogues in 2023, in the margins of the regional Climate Weeks. In each case, the topic for the dialogue could reflect the topic of the global dialogue, further refined to reflect the regional context.

The MWP will be chaired by two co-chairs, one from a developed country Party and one from a developing country Party, appointed by the SB Chairs, in consultation with respective constituencies. In our view, these high-level co-chairs should have a background in the design, implementation, and/or financing of programs and policies designed to enhance climate ambition and should have a wide network of contacts across sectors and stakeholder groups. Similarly, a pair of co-facilitators should guide negotiations under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice that will produce a draft decision annually for consideration and adoption by the CMA.

Annex: Example of a MWP dialogue session

The design of each MWP dialogue will vary depending on the selected topic, and whether it is global or regional. The hypothetical example below provides a notional idea of how a dialogue and investment forum could be structured to engage the full range of key stakeholders in a dynamic, action-oriented event designed to identify opportunities for ambition breakthroughs.

Dialogue on transitioning to zero-emissions vehicles

Pre-dialogue work:

- Submissions on best practices, lessons learned;
- Secretariat-led reports, working with external experts (e.g. IEA, MI) on current state of play, technologies, initiatives, best practices, case-studies, etc.

Day 1:

- Intro presentation – potential role of ZEVs in reaching net zero; modeled pathways, challenges, barriers, cutting-edge developments;
- Panel on breakthrough light-duty vehicle technologies;
- Panel on breakthrough heavy-duty vehicle technologies;
- *Lunch* (curated café-style discussions)
- PM “Ask the expert” session
 - ~20 experts with diverse expertise related to ZEVs arranged at tables
 - Bios posted in advance; map of room with location of each expert at table
 - Participants circulate from table to table for suggestions on particular challenges
- In parallel: Technology showcases
 - 15-minute spotlights on next-generation technologies

Day 2:

- Presentations by 2-3 cities/countries on infrastructure deployment;
- 2-3 case studies of financing models for ZEV deployment;
- *Lunch* (curated café-style discussions)
- PM Solutions Incubator
 - 2-3 countries/ stakeholders present particular problems (; mismatch parking places and charging infrastructure)
 - Audience helps brainstorm solutions

Day 3: Investment forum:

- Stakeholders invited to bring early-stage investment concepts for discussion with peers and potential investors;
- Participation by invited investors (commercial banks, impact investors, DFIs, MDBs);
- Opportunity to learn about investor priorities, gather concept feedback, and establish partnerships for developing concepts toward fully bankable activities;
- World café-style event where participants circulate amongst tables, facilitating contacts and discussion