

**The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern
Ireland's submission to the United Nations
Framework Convention on Climate Change on the
approach to the consideration of outputs component
of the first Global Stocktake**

provided in line with the mandate given in November 2022¹



¹ Decision FCCC/SB/2022/L.8, paragraph 8

Introduction

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomes the opportunity to make this submission in response to the call for views in decision FCCC/SB/2022/L.8 on the approach to the consideration of outputs component of the first Global Stocktake (GST).

The information collection and technical assessment components of the GST have enabled Parties to share insights and best practice on a range of topics relating to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The UK would like to recognise the constructive engagement of Parties and non-Party stakeholders in the process, as well as the work of the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies and the co-facilitators of the Technical Dialogue.

There is, however, a clear need to ensure that we bridge the technical and political aspects of the GST throughout this year until COP28 to ensure that it has the required impact on the ambition of our collective action. The UK is therefore pleased to share views on the approach to be taken to the consideration of outputs phase this year.

Key messages

- The GST is a crucial lever for driving ambition under the Paris Agreement and its outcomes should therefore be **forward looking** and focused on the **further action** that needs to be taken individually and collectively.
- A **political process** is required to ensure the GST delivers on its mandate and acts as a step change in the delivery of the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- The **incoming COP28 Presidency** has a key role to play in building political momentum towards ambitious outcomes throughout the year, in addition to the high-level committee's preparations for events at COP28.
- Work under the **Subsidiary Bodies** should draw on the technical assessment component of the GST to inform political outcomes.
- Outcomes at COP28 should provide guidance for **2025 NDCs and long-term ambition**, while also including commitments to **immediate action** across the thematic areas of the GST in this critical decade.
- On adaptation, the GST should follow a structured approach based on the **adaptation policy cycle** and **sectors**, and focus on adaptation solutions for urgent transformational adaptation, in line with countries' plans.
- The GST outcome should acknowledge the need to accelerate the alignment of **finance flows** with the goals of the Paris Agreement and encourage steps towards creating a **financial architecture** that will deliver on our global climate ambition.
- Outputs should also include opportunities for **international cooperation** and collaboration between Parties and **non-Party stakeholders**, given the critical role of the latter in delivering the Paris goals.

Emerging priorities for the consideration of outputs

At COP21, Parties agreed to take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement every five years in order to assess collective progress towards achieving its goals. The outcome of the GST is mandated to inform Parties in updating and enhancing their actions and support in a nationally determined manner, as well as enhancing international cooperation for climate action.

Without prejudice to the final outcomes of the technical assessment component, the UK sees a number of emerging priorities as we look ahead to the consideration of outputs based on the GST process to date.

It is clear that **the first GST takes place at a crucial point in the critical decade to 2030**. Given the urgency with which the science tells to act if we are to keep 1.5 alive and adapt to the increasing impacts of climate change, ensuring ambitious, action-oriented outcomes is vital both for the credibility of the ambition raising mechanism set out in the Paris Agreement and for the delivery of its goals. The GST outcome should therefore **provide political direction to accelerate ambition and support** for the transformation of global systems towards net zero and to peak global emissions by 2025, as well as the increase and funding of adaptive capacity to the effects of rising temperatures.

The GST should continue to drive **collaboration across sectors** of the economy and between Parties and **non-Party stakeholders** and lead to a strengthening of the role of initiatives by Parties and non-Party stakeholders in implementation.

Mitigation

The GST outcome should reflect consensus on **best practice for ambitious 2035 NDCs** (that will be communicated by 2025) and provide any relevant guidance to Parties to inform their preparation. Given the relevance of GST discussions to current climate action, the outcome should also include commitments to immediate action on implementation, including **building on international cooperation and initiatives**. Parties should reflect on the evidence from the Technical Dialogues synthesis report and wider GST outcomes to establish sectoral targets and policies that align with a 1.5 degree trajectory. As such, the development of 2035 NDCs should also be linked to and inform Parties' ongoing **efforts to revisit 2030 NDC** targets, ensuring that NDCs and LT-LEDs remain consistent with each other and the best available science. All Parties, and particularly major emitters, should therefore enhance their mitigation ambition in a nationally determined manner in response to the GST outcome, taking seriously their responsibility to contribute to the global goals according to their capacity. This will in turn enable the Mitigation Work Programme to take forward relevant implementation and inform the next GST to close the emissions gap.

Adaptation

The GST outcome should provide clarity on adaptation solutions. At the national level, all parties will need to commit to developing iterative **adaptation plans and adaptation communications** setting out their priorities. At the global level, a commitment to focus on **implementation through solutions and enablers** in the context of urgent transformational adaptation will be needed for countries to be able to face current and projected climate risks. A concrete way to structure the GST outcomes on adaptation – linking the discussions to the ongoing Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation – would be to identify solutions through different lenses, including **sectors**, and in line with the **adaptation policy cycle**: impact vulnerability and risk assessment; planning; implementation; and monitoring, evaluation and learning (recognising that means of implementation is a consideration at each stage of the cycle).

Means of implementation

In order to deliver the step change in ambition required, the GST outcome should also send a clear signal about the reforms that **international financial institutions**, including multilateral development banks and development finance institutions, need to make to support the climate transition. Areas

of focus could include working with private finance actors to increase finance mobilisation and develop innovative mechanisms; supporting long-term climate action planning; and responses to climate disaster. The outcome should also acknowledge the need to **accelerate the alignment of finance flows** with the goals of the Paris Agreement and fully operationalise Article 2.1c of the Paris Agreement, noting the need for concrete progress on the ambitious new collective quantified goal from the floor of USD 100 billion. The GST should also acknowledge the urgent need for developed countries to fulfil their commitments under Article 9, noting that there is greater scope to use public finance and the influence of public sector actors more effectively to strengthen the **enabling conditions** to support climate investment in developing economies. The GST should link with the discussions in the Sharm el-Sheikh Dialogue on Article 2.1c and consider how this work can continue under the UNFCCC on a long-term basis.

Paving the way for the consideration of outputs

The high-level committee and incoming Presidency

Decision 19/CMA.1 outlines the mandate for the various components of the GST process. In preparing for the consideration of outputs, the UK believes the incoming Presidency and the high-level committee (mandated in para. 33 of decision 19/CMA.1 to take responsibility for chairing the high-level events at COP28) have an important part to play.

It is incumbent on the **high-level committee** to set expectations for ambitious high-level events throughout the year. The high-level committee should therefore engage early and regularly with Parties, in addition to the update to be provided during the 58th session of the Subsidiary Bodies, as requested by the joint contact group at the 57th session of the Subsidiary Bodies in November 2022. The UK would welcome an update from the high-level committee soon to provide a roadmap of its plans towards COP28.

The UK also sees a role for the **incoming COP28 Presidency** in convening Parties at key moments across the year. This could include meetings of ministers, as well as taking advantage of political events, including the UN Secretary General's Climate Ambition Summit scheduled to take place in September 2023, to encourage Parties to come forward with responses to the implementation gaps that the GST process has shown to date.

Work under the SBSTA and SBI

As agreed during the 57th session, the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB Chairs) will hold a **hybrid consultation** with Parties in April 2023 on preparations for the consideration of outputs component of the first GST. This consultation should focus on the views shared in submissions regarding the approach to the **format** of the GST outcome and the **process** required to reach it.

The views shared during the hybrid consultation should be considered without prejudice to the meeting of the joint contact group at the 58th session of the Subsidiary Bodies. The SB Chairs could inform the high-level committee of the views shared during the consultation to take into account as they prepare for the consideration of outputs phase and ahead of their update to Parties at the upcoming session.

The negotiations of the **joint contact group** during the 58th session could focus on expectations for the format of the various elements of the consideration of outputs, in addition to providing any

relevant guidance to the co-facilitators of the Technical Dialogue for the preparation of the synthesis report and key findings of the technical assessment process.

The SB Chairs are also mandated in para. 7 of decision 19/CMA.1 to produce **guiding questions** for the consideration of outputs component one session in advance. These questions could draw on the technical assessment component and the plans of the high-level committee to support preparations for the high-level events referenced in para. 33 of 19/CMA.1. An informal virtual consultation on the guiding questions could be held by the SB Chairs to reflect the approach taken during the information collection and technical assessment components.

Ensuring an impactful consideration of outputs

High-level events

The mandate for the consideration of outputs in decision 19/CMA.1 states that high-level events will be held during the consideration of outputs phase, with findings of the technical assessment presented and their implications discussed and considered by Parties (para. 33). Recommendations arising from these events for strengthening action and enhancing support should then be captured as part of the key political outcomes included in the outputs of the GST (para. 34b).

In order to ensure that these political outcomes have the necessary impact on the acceleration of climate action, and that there is accountability for their implementation, the high-level events should be held at a senior level. This could involve **world leaders** during the high-level segment of COP28 as well as **ministers** taking part in thematic events.

Non-Party stakeholders have a critical contribution to make to meeting the Paris goals and have played an important role in the GST process to date. It is therefore vital that the consideration of outputs is **inclusive of non-Party stakeholders**. As part of their mandate in para. 77 of decision 1/CMA.3 to support non-Party stakeholder participation in the GST, the **High-Level Champions** could collaborate with the high-level committee in the organisation of events ahead of and at COP28, making use of fora such as the **Regional Climate Weeks**.

The high-level events, convening representatives from Parties and non-Party stakeholders, could be organised according to relevant topics under mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation, as well as the cross-cutting issues of loss and damage and response measures. The events could showcase **best practice on implementation and international collaboration** within and across **sectors** of the economy, highlighting the **linkages** between the themes of the GST. High-level **roundtables** could bring together line ministries and stakeholders to draw on the findings of the technical assessment and identify forward-looking actions.

Outputs

There are several elements to the GST outputs outlined in decision 19/CMA.1. As noted above, the UK believes it is incumbent on the incoming Presidency and high-level committee to build momentum towards an ambitious outcome throughout the year. At COP28, the Presidency will have a particular role to play in bringing together the various elements of a package of GST outputs.

The outputs should include a **political outcome**, which could take the form of a declaration as referenced in para. 34c of decision 19/CMA.1. This could be agreed by world leaders at the high-

level events and should be the product of a process of inclusive and transparent consultation by the Presidency. This could be structured to include commitments to **international cooperation**.

A **CMA decision** should reference any declaration as described above, as well as setting out key opportunities and challenges identified for enhancing action and support, as outlined in para. 34a of decision 19/CMA.1. These should draw on, but not be limited to, the key findings of the technical assessment component and the high-level events held during the consideration of outputs. The decision could also look ahead to the next ambition cycle under the Paris Agreement and provide guidance for future GSTs.

The outputs of the GST should provide signals to enable enhanced action from **non-Party stakeholders**. The High-Level Champions could assist non-Party stakeholders in their engagement in the consideration of outputs.

A **technical annex** listing best practice and options for action to be taken by Parties and non-Party stakeholders could be a helpful tool for implementing the findings of the GST. This could be a product of the Technical Dialogue, produced by the co-facilitators as an annex to the synthesis report and presented by the Presidency as part of the GST outcome package.

There should be **accountability** built into the outputs of the GST to ensure that it leads to action in the immediate term and beyond.