

## **Submission by the Russian Federation on the outputs component of the first global stocktake (GST)**

*September 2023*

Pursuant to paragraph 8 (a) of conclusions by the Chairs at the 58th sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and Subsidiary Body for Implementation on the Matters relating to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement (document FCCC/SB/2023/L.3), the Russian Federation provides its proposals for outputs component of the first global stocktake (GST).

We believe that the outcomes of the GST should include the following structural elements:

- preamble,
- context and cross-cutting considerations,
- collective progress towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, including mitigation; adaptation; means of implementation and support, including finance flows; efforts related to loss and damage; efforts related to response measures,
- enhancing international cooperation for climate action,
- guidance and way forward.

### **Assessing collective progress**

The Russian Federation considers the global stocktake as an important element in assessing progress in achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. We believe that the global stocktake should be comprehensive. Its outputs should contribute to a better understanding of the challenges that the countries participating in the Agreement are facing and will be reflected in the nationally determined contributions proposed to be presented in 2025 in accordance with the decision 3/CMA.3. We support holding intersessional consultations and workshops in order to develop best approaches to the organization of the first global stocktake and the review of its results and are ready to actively engage in the process together with other stakeholders on all aspects of climate change.

The stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement goals should equally consider mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and support. The assessment of progress in achieving the Paris Agreement goals should take into account the integrated and indivisible nature of economic, social and environmental issues. That implies that it should encompass positive and negative impacts of this process for the achievement of the sustainable development goals noting that climate action should not hinder socio-economic development.

Regarding mitigation, it is necessary to reflect current state of affairs against the benchmark of the long-term goal of the Paris Agreement as outlined in Article 2 of the Agreement.

The GST outputs should include an assessment of diverse and multisectoral effects and consequences of just transitions, with particular attention to socio-economic consequences, associated with direct and indirect risks for human well-being and economy development. It is important that in an effort to keep the temperature rise within the range it is necessary to be guided primarily by a pragmatic approach that does not undermine the socio-economic development and does not reduce the well-being of the population as well as keep in mind the importance of just transitions, equity and CBDR-RC at different levels.

Consideration should be given to the input of any low-emission and transitional technologies and fuels that promote for reduction of emissions and enhance the removals of the greenhouse gases. It is also necessary to take into account the contribution of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches to the removal of greenhouse gases, such as absorption by forest ecosystems.

It is necessary to reflect the issues and challenges that define the importance of a coherent just transition that takes into account national circumstances and different decarbonization pathways.

Regarding adaptation, we expect the first GST outputs to reflect the results of the Glasgow – Sharm el-Sheikh work program on the global goal on adaptation, namely, the structure of the adaptation framework, and to determine assessment process for the progress in adaptation aligned with the iterative adaptation cycle. We believe the GST should reflect the risks and vulnerabilities assessment as well as the progress in development and implementation of national adaptation plans, including sectoral, regional and local dimensions. In the context of adaptation, it is crucial to consider a wide range of means of implementation, encompassing not only financial support but also technologies and capacity building. It is also important to assess the efficiency of adaptation measures being implemented, including those using support provided

Regarding means of implementation and support, it should be highlighted that affordable access to technology, finance and investment is one of key conditions for climate policy implementation in all countries.

Therefore, the GST outcomes should contain an analysis of availability and sufficiency of means of implementation and support. The output of the GST should reflect means and resources available, as well as key challenges and barriers for the enhancement of access to various means of implementation, including those trade and politics related. Than includes both aspects of alignment of domestic and international finance flows with the sustainable development trajectories that encompass climate change mitigation and adaptation, and issues of access to technologies, knowledge and expertise, capacity building. A special consideration should be given to contributions of state and private sector in providing necessary support.

### **Opportunities for and challenges in enhancing action for collective progress**

A successful GST outcome should be based on the principles set out in the Paris Agreement and should take into account various sources of information, but be primarily based on the countries' submissions of views.

The results of the technical assessment phase should be clear for all, comprehensive, unbiased, and represent different ways of overcoming barriers and obstacles across all thematic areas of the GST, in light of different national circumstances.

The Synthesis Report may include technical annexes and summary cards to present the detailed findings from the technical assessment in a more illustrative and accessible way to better reflect the stocktaking of implementation and identification of gaps and opportunities. Therefore, the synthesis report can serve as a reference to inform Parties, and each country can refer to it to obtain the necessary data.

It is our view that the outcome document to be adopted at COP-28 could include recommendations that the countries could apply in a nationally determined manner. These recommendations should be non-prescriptive and provide Parties with reference options that they could choose to develop further actions taking into account their national circumstances.

Meanwhile the GST should offer a variety of approaches in which each country can choose the one that suits it depending on the circumstances, so its outcomes should be non-prescriptive and should not impose any new obligations. They should not lead to an assessment, revision or update of the goals of the Paris Agreement including its temperature goal.

The principles mentioned above should be duly reflected in the GST political recommendations and outcome document.

### **Addressing gaps and ensuring comprehensive responses**

Possible ways to overcome obstacles should contain proposals for a set of measures to be included in the GST outcomes.

In terms of mitigation, approaches to address the challenges and barriers should reflect the urge to resolve climate change related issues without hampering the implementation of sustainable development goals, thus, SDG co-benefits for other SDGs should serve as important criteria of quality mitigation efforts.

Differences in the socio-economic development and technological capacity of the countries should be taken into account. The GST outputs should preclude any political and other limitations, restrictions and barriers. Means to address the gaps should include as wide spectrum of tools as possible and should not impose any specific "top-down" mechanism on Parties. The nationally determined nature of NDCs should be robustly preserved. We oppose any provisions or outcomes that somehow discriminate or call for phase-out of any specific energy source or fossil fuel type.

The proposed measures and practices should not be restrictive or binding, should not be punitive and should be in line with the principles of the Paris Agreement. It is important to emphasize that policies and measures to combat climate change must be cost-effective, and climate technologies and financing must be affordable and adequate.

In terms of adaptation, overcoming of barriers should take into account both the global nature of adaptation and the local, regional and national contexts of adaptation. The Approach to the remaining issues should be based on the efficiency of the measures implemented and the resources used. It should also include rising awareness about climate change and associated risks, broader access to the data needed for decision-making. Later on we suggest aligning the assessment of progress in the global goal of adaptation with the next GST round.

As for the means of implementation, challenges and gaps should be addressed from the point of cooperation in building expertise, increase the scale of training of specialists, and advanced climate-neutral technologies should be available to all countries, for example, through a mechanism for free or low-cost technology transfer to all countries in need. In terms of better accessibility of financial support, gaps could be addressed through the mechanisms of alignment of financial flows with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development, adjustment of criteria and conditions for the access to finance in order to ensure its availability and efficient use, increase in private sector participation, which will increase the emphasis on financing mitigation and adaptation actions that have the greatest cost-effectiveness. Approaches for the challenges related to the means of implementation should focus on facilitative measures rather than restrictive actions.

### **Providing the platform of evidence to inform Parties' next NDCs and long-term strategies**

It is useful to monitor how the GST outcomes inform Parties in the development of their NDCs. In order to encourage constructive engagement among participants and create an environment that increases understanding and identifies solutions we support conducting thematic roundtables as well as high-level events.

We understand the value of working with non-state actors to increase transparency and accountability of their action. Such process is crucial for building trust among stakeholders and providing information on the progress and gaps in implementation of the Paris Agreement goals.

### **Reflecting principles of “equity” and “best-available science”**

In order to best inform all Parties' updates in their national policies, the GST should be based on a wide range of scientific evidence and politicization should be avoided. We stand for objective and unbiased scientific assessment.

We emphasize the need to implement equitable and just transitions. The developed countries included in the Annex 2 of the UNFCCC should take the lead in scaling up

mitigation actions and ambition and provision of climate finance, and respect the right to development and policy space of all other countries.

**Effective mechanisms to ensure that means of implementation and support flow consistently in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement**

Climate change objectives require adequate funding. Alignment of financial flows with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development should be done in a nationally determined manner. This may include the reform of fiscal and financial and regulatory policies as well as the integration of climate risks in financial decision-making processes by private sector. At the same time, all such measures should be taken with caution so as to ensure that they support just and equitable transitions for all without creating any new obstacles.

Strengthening the climate agenda should contribute to the implementation of measures that encourage investing in green initiatives, for example, through national taxonomies and criteria for development sustainable projects.

It is important to consider climate finance flows within the broader context and take into account all efforts undertaken by countries in making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development. It is crucial that this alignment does not impede social and economic development benefits, for example, through phase-out or phase-down of critical fossil fuels.

**Key political messages for strengthening action and enhancing support**

The GST outcome should inform Parties in aligning their NDCs with long-term strategies that are consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

In order to effectively inform Parties in updating their NDCs and enhancing actions and support the GST outcomes should be comprehensive and clear. For instance, the GST outcome should include provisions to:

- Highlight the importance of national circumstances in achieving climate and just transition goals.
- Address the interlinkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Consider a wide range of low-emission and transitional technologies and fuel types that contribute to GHG emissions reduction and/or removal, including natural gas, nuclear and hydropower. Emphasize the role of natural gas as an efficient transitional fuel.
- Strengthen the role of ecosystem and technological solutions for greenhouse gas removals to achieve the global balance of greenhouse gas emissions and removals.
- Recognize the role of carbon markets as an economy mechanism for greenhouse gas mitigation.

– Promote affordable, inclusive and non-restrictive access to technologies, finance and investment for sustainable development and highlight the importance of non-discriminatory approach to international climate cooperation.

– Enhance international cooperation for climate action and increase the role of the private sector in the implementation of the climate agenda. We believe we should use channels that exist under the UNFCCC, for example, webinars, workshops, submissions, as well as establish partnerships and launch initiatives.

– Highlight the need for robust and reliable data.