

Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Arab Group

In response to the invitation to submit views on the eighth technical expert dialogue

The Arab Group has engaged constructively over the course of the past seven technical expert dialogues with a view to advancing progress on defining the elements of the New Collective Quantified Goal. As we look forward to CMA6 and the completion of the mandate of Parties to define all the elements of the NCQG, it is critical that a concrete pathway is defined for the ad hoc work programme in 2024 to establish convergence among Parties on the road to the final outcome.

As a result, the eighth technical expert dialogue must provide participants with the space to review the progress over the past seven technical expert dialogues, affording them the opportunity to concretely summarize their options and to discuss potential modalities for further work in 2024 as well as priority elements to be decided in 2023 in CMA5.

Format of the eighth technical expert dialogue:

The eighth technical expert dialogue should be divided into two segments, with the first segment focusing on reflections on work undertaken in 2023 and the second segment focusing on the outlook to 2024. The dialogue should not include any scene setting presentations in order to make use of the time available to discuss substantive issues. The discussions should take place in two working groups per segment with reports back to the main plenary after each segment.

Reflections on work undertaken in 2023 and bringing elements together:

Participants should be invited to provide their views on the previous topics discussed during 2023, and as well they may reference discussions from 2022. Participants should be invited to present their concrete options in line with discussions in 2023. Participants should also be asked if they are open to other options presented by others, with a view to facilitate potential convergence on particular options. Facilitators of the working group should report back concisely focused on the options presented and potential areas of convergence.

Outlook to 2024:

Participants should be asked to provide their views on their suggested modalities for the work to be undertaken in 2024. They should be asked to present concrete suggestions that can be considered by Parties as part of their deliberations in

Dubai. Participants should also be asked whether priority elements should be decided in CMA5 to facilitate the final outcome in CMA6.

Summary of Arab Group views on elements as discussed in previous technical expert dialogues:

On timeframe, we advocated for a goal period of 2025-2030 with a renewal of the goal thereafter including a revision of the quantum. On structure, we supported a streamlined goal with no sub goals to reflect the unequivocal responsibility and obligation of developed countries to provide and mobilize finance to achieve the goal.

On quantum, we set a quantum of USD 1.1 trillion from developed to developing countries not including arrears for the 100 billion. We set this number based on the needs and priorities of developing countries as outlined in the NDR report and are open to changing to quantum based on the updated NDR next year.

On quality, we outlined how there should be guidelines for the implementation of the goal. We identified two priority qualitative areas: 1. The delivery of the goal should be to the largest extent possible through grant based and concessional finance 2. The need for finance to actually support NDCs and other national plans.

We advocated for transparency arrangements that are in line with our principles and that respect the multilaterally agreed decisions of the past few years. We set the ETF as the backward-looking reporting tool without any changes - taking to account that it has very clear modalities, procedures and guidelines for developed countries that touch on issues that are key for all developing countries.

These include how to avoid double counting, how to accurately report mobilized finance, how support enables the implementation of NDCs and how finance is new and additional and represents a progression over time.

For forward looking reporting we respected Article 9.5, just like we respect the entirety of Article 9. We recognize that biennial reports need to improve and will push for improvements in predictability in the appropriate avenues and discussions.

For reports on progress we prefer the standing committee on finance to continue its work and recognize the need for improvements in their outputs. These improvements cannot be separated from an update of the SCF operational definition of climate finance - work that our group pushed for and secured in Sharm El Sheikh.

We requested that the HLMD discuss:

1. Reforming budgetary processes in developed countries to enable scale and efficiency
2. Adverse impacts of response measures and unilateral measures - how they create finance deficits
3. How progress reports can reconcile different methodological approaches to ensure we always know the correct number moving forward
4. How channels of resources can integrate the principles of equity, CBDR and adjust to effectively address the need and priorities of developing countries

Arab Group views on the outlook to 2024:

As we head into the final year of the discussions on the New Collective Quantified Goal, a clear pathway to the completion of the mandate from CMA3 should be defined by Parties in the CMA5 decision. The ad hoc work programme should assist Parties in their deliberations by summarizing views on the possible ways forward for the work programme in 2024.

In order to facilitate discussions next year and advance work on defining the quantum of the goal, the timeframe of the goal must be decided in CMA5. Without a concrete timeframe ahead of the final year of the mandate, it will not be possible to set a quantum that is reflective of the needs and priorities of developing countries and the international community risks repeating mistakes from previous climate finance goals, namely the USD 100 billion. Therefore, Parties must come to a conclusion on the timeframe during their discussions in Dubai as a priority element, and pursue efforts to define other elements.

With regards to the modalities of work in 2024 for the ad hoc work programme, a shift towards more concrete work focused on recommendations for the consideration of Parties in CMA6 is necessary. As such, a temporary technical committee should be established for one year consisting of 24 members, comprising 10 members from developed country Parties and 14 members from developing country Parties with geographical representation as follows:

- a. Three members from Africa;
- b. Three members from Asia and the Pacific;
- c. Three members from Latin America and the Caribbean;
- d. Two members from small island developing States;

- e. Two members from the least developing countries;
- f. One member from a developing country Party not included in the categories listed above.

The committee should hold 4 sessions in 2024 in conjunction with the 4 technical expert dialogues that will be conducted in line with decision 9/CMA.3 paragraph 5, to discuss recommendations on the elements, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries, outlined in decision 9/CMA.3 paragraph 16, namely the:

- a. Quantity;
- b. Quality;
- c. Scope;
- d. Access features;
- e. Sources of funding;
- f. Transparency arrangements.

The 4 technical expert dialogues will continue to ensure the participation of all interested Parties, academia, civil society actors, including youth, and private sector actors, however the focus will be to inform the discussions of Parties within the committee. The committee will work on a consensus-basis to develop concrete recommendations for the consideration of Parties in CMA.6 on the elements of the goal.