



SUBMISSION BY CANADA:

Suggested topics for the mitigation ambition and implementation work programme

This submission responds to paragraph 12 of decision 4/CMA.4¹, which invites Parties, observers, and other non-Party stakeholders to submit via the submission portal by 1 February every year suggested topics in line with the scope of the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme (MWP) to be discussed under the dialogues. Canada welcomes the opportunity to share views on the direction and themes for the work programme this year, building on the progress and lessons learned from 2023, and thanks the co-chairs of the MWP for their efforts and engagement in an iterative process which made for a successful first year of work.

Selection of topics for 2024

Paragraph 4 of decision 4/CMA.4 states that “the scope of the work programme should 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”.

In addition to the scope clearly laid out by that part of the decision, the guiding question which should be asked about any potential topic for the MWP is this: does it meet the objective of the work programme? That objective can be broken down into two key components – meeting urgency with effectiveness and speed, and complementarity to the global stocktake (GST).

Canada proposes that the MWP should focus on the mitigation elements of the GST decision in 2024 – specifically those laid out in paragraph 28. This paragraph includes a series of global efforts critical to achieving emissions reductions in line with 1.5°C pathways, to which Parties are called on to contribute in a nationally determined manner, taking into account different national circumstances, pathways and approaches.

With regards to urgency, and in the context of the insufficiency of current action to meet the 1.5-degree temperature goal, discussions in the MWP should focus on areas which will lead to the greatest mitigation outcomes – i.e., deep, rapid, and sustained emissions reductions – by 2030. The dialogues and investment-focused events can foster enhanced ambition and action and contribute to the elimination of barriers by facilitating exchange of knowledge and best practices in a way that is *solutions-oriented*. With the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to be communicated by early 2025, the MWP should provide actionable, replicable, practical learning that Parties can take on board, where relevant and appropriate for their national circumstances, in implementing 2030 targets and developing 2035 targets. The topics should also be decided, and dialogues structured, in such a way that they are relevant for all Parties.

¹ [FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/10/Add.1](https://fccc.pa/cma/2022/10/Add.1)

On the matter of the outcome of the first global stocktake, paragraph 1 of decision 4/CMA.4 clearly states that the objective of the MWP must be achieved in a manner that complements the global stocktake. Further, under the section *Guidance and the way forward* of the GST outcome from COP28, paragraph 186 “invites the relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under or serving the Paris Agreement to integrate relevant outcomes of the first global stocktake in planning their future work, in line with their mandates”². The MWP is one of the work programmes best suited to tackling the collective mitigation commitments laid out in GST1, and doing so also clearly aligns with its mandate.

Two examples of topics linked to the GST outcome which could be selected for the MWP in 2024 are:

(1) Non-CO₂ gases as a cross-cutting, multi-sectoral issue. Non-CO₂ emissions contribute significantly to global warming. These gases include short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) with much shorter lifetimes in the atmosphere compared to CO₂, but a strong warming impact. Action to reduce emissions from non-CO₂ gases can significantly reduce near-term warming and, in some cases, result in immediate co-benefits to air quality and human health. The best available science also makes clear that there is no path to limiting warming to 1.5°C without action on these emissions, and that rapid reductions would lower the level of peak warming³. Dialogues could narrow their focus by examining a specific gas (e.g., methane) in a cross-sectoral manner, non-CO₂ gases in a particular sector (e.g., industry), and/or expanding gas coverage in NDCs.

(2) Buildings as a sectoral approach. Emissions from the building sector account for a significant portion of total greenhouse gas emissions – 21% of the global share in 2019, increasing by 50% over the period of 1990 to 2019⁴. The MWP could build on last year’s discussions on energy efficiency and electricity and consider a range of issues such as building retrofitting, construction of new buildings and avoiding lock-in of fossil-fuel intensive infrastructure in the context of urbanization; and decarbonization of building materials (e.g., steel, concrete, cement).

Within and in addition to paragraph 28, there is a wide range of mitigation elements in the outcome of GST1 which could be considered in future years of the MWP, including a potential focus on the land use, deforestation, and nature-based solutions in 2025.

Additional note

One area of further improvement that Canada would underscore is the importance of strengthening both in-person and virtual participation in the dialogues, through methods such as expanded registration (for both means, but at greater numbers for virtual participation), outreach to UNFCCC observer constituencies, and engaging with the High-Level Champions and their networks. Ensuring the inclusion of diverse perspectives and experiences will lead to a better understanding of the landscape and ways forward for any given theme under the work programme, from barriers and challenges to replicable and economical solutions. Participation in the dialogues should be open to relevant rights holders, including Indigenous Peoples; sub-national governments; and stakeholders such as financial institutions, academics, industry, civil society organizations, multilateral development banks, and international organizations.

Canada looks forward to a robust exchange with Parties and non-Party actors this year to enable us all to enhance our ambition and take further, concrete action on our respective paths to achieving our collective goal, in line with the best available science, and recalling that rights-based and inclusive approaches lead to better climate results.

² [Outcome of the first global stocktake - advance unedited version](#)

³ [IPCC AR6 WGIII, Chapter 3: Mitigation pathways compatible with long-term goals](#)

⁴ [IPCC AR6 WGIII, Chapter 9: Buildings](#)