



WWF Submission on Suggested Topics for the Mitigation Work Programme

1 February 2024

WWF is pleased to respond to the call in the decision by CMA.5, that *encourages Parties, observers, and other non-Party stakeholders to submit via the submission portal by 1 February 2024 suggested topics in line with the scope of the work programme, to be discussed at the global dialogues in 2024. We present our views below.*

Summary

1. Suggested Theme for 2024: Accelerating the Just Energy Transition

1. Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels
2. Just Energy Transition in NDCs
3. Just Energy Transition as a driver for development

2. Future Themes for the MWP

1. Land Use, Forests and Food Systems
2. Industry, with a focus on the Steel Sector

1. Contextualization

WWF recalls the Mitigation Work Programme objective “*to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation **in this critical decade** in a manner that **complements the global stocktake**”*. We believe this work programme is really important as it is the only process that can address mitigation action pre-2030. We would like to see it delivering on its mandate through taking on the guidance to move forward from the GST into an action-oriented discussion that results in sector-specific funded partnerships and projects. We firmly believe that the reports should indicate practical recommendations that can be taken up by countries and get financial support through the investment-focused events.

2. Topic for the MWP in 2024: Accelerating the Just Energy Transition

Two useful dialogues on this topic took place in 2023. However, WWF believes that due to the complexity of this theme and the impact it can have in reducing emissions by 2030, the MWP should continue discussions on the same theme on the following subtopics:

A. Transitioning away from fossil fuels

As the MWP is mandated to complement the GST, we would like to see the dialogues considering **how to make tangible the tripling of renewable energy and doubling of energy efficiency annual improvements between 2022 and 2030** through available and scalable solutions, which can be deployed now and deliver results in this decade. Therefore, continuing the discussion on dangerous distractions such as CCS and Nuclear remains highly important.

B. Just Energy Transition in NDCs

The MWP dialogues should foster recommendations on best practices that are useful (a) to leverage regional and national climate action in this critical decade and (b) to prepare new NDCs 9 to 12 months ahead of COP30, including updated targets and actions for the 2030 time frame as per the MWP mandate.

C. Just Energy transition as a driver for development

The dialogue should focus on existing experiences with centralized, decentralized and community-driven renewable energy initiatives around the globe, grounded in a human rights approach, distill elements of success and reflect on the investment and policy implications to boost such initiatives, especially in developing countries.

3. Topics for the MWP beyond 2024:

Last year WWF highlighted the need for the Programme to conduct strategic and sectoral deep dives. We believe that it's key for the Mitigation Work Programme to conduct strategic sectoral deep dives to deliver on its mandate. We suggest that future dialogues of the MWP from 2025 onwards consider the following themes:

- A. **Land use and Forests**, since this sector currently accounts for around currently accounts for approximately 13% of global annual GHG emissions, and also contributes to biodiversity conservation, livelihoods and delivering on the Global Biodiversity Framework.

B. Industry, with a focus on the steel sector: The steel sector (including scope 2 emissions from the power used) is accountable for 8% of all global GHG-emissions and the production volumes are projected to grow in the coming decades. One key driver for the growing steel demand is the crucial role of steel in clean energy infrastructure such as power grids and windmills. Accelerating steel sector decarbonization is of crucial importance in order to keep the target of limiting global warming to 1.5C alive.

In recent years, a number of pathways showing how the steel sector can be aligned with a 1.5C global carbon budget have been developed and published, including the IEA Net Zero Roadmap [1]. The general, encouraging message in these reports is that the technology needed to decarbonize steel production is known. However, a rapid deployment of breakthrough technologies, such as hydrogen-based reduction of primary iron ore, is required.

Two thirds of the present steel production assets will reach their end-of-life by 2030 [2]. As a steel mill normally is operational at least for 30 years, it is of key importance that all relining investments are aligned with the limited 1.5C carbon budget of the steel sector. Governments have a crucial role in creating the right incentives for Paris aligned investments.

In the run up to and during COP28 steel sector decarbonization gained a strong momentum. Key processes include:

1. Launch of SBTi 1.5C guidance for iron & steel sector in July 2023
2. Steel decarbonization was included in the Agenda implementation areas at the Climate Ambition Summit convened by the UNSG in September 2023.
3. The IDDI initiative launched by the Clean Energy Ministerial at COP26 and coordinated by UNIDO launched at COP28 the Green Public Procurement Pledge, designed to stimulate the global demand for low carbon industrial materials.
4. Launch of Climate club on December 1st at COP28 , including the announcement that the secretariat will be co-chaired by IEA and OECD. The Climate club will initially focus on decarbonizing the production of steel and cement.

These and several other ongoing processes outside the UNFCCC-space, have a huge potential to provide valuable input to the MWP dialogues. WWF is one of numerous stakeholders in the NGO community engaging in steel sector decarbonization.

In addition to informing the process of NDC enhancement, the sectoral approach of the MWP will directly have an impact on decision making on many levels. Steel markets are global and multinational companies have a major role in decision making. Continuing the focus of MWP on electrification and decarbonizing power production is needed, as the availability of green power is a key component of steel decarbonization. In addition to this, a steel sector approach would highlight the specifics of steel sector decarbonization.

References

1. In May 2021, the IEA published its landmark report *Net Zero Emissions by 2050: A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector*. The report was updated in September 2023. [Net Zero Roadmap: A Global Pathway to Keep the 1.5 °C Goal in Reach – Analysis - IEA](#)
2. <https://www.agora-industry.org/data-tools/global-steel-transformation-tracker>

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