

LMDC Submission on the Global Dialogues of the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme

February 2024

1. Context

According to Decision 4/CMA.4 (Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme), at least two global dialogues shall be held each year as part of the work programme, with one to be held prior to the first regular sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the year, starting at their fifty-eighth sessions, and one prior to the second regular sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the year, starting at their fifty-ninth sessions (November-December 2023), and that such dialogues should be conducted in hybrid format to allow both in-person and virtual participation. In accordance with decision x/CMA.5, Parties, observers and other non-Party stakeholders are encouraged to submit proposals for topic recommendations for the 2024 global dialogues by 1 February 2024.

Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) welcome the positive progress of the two global dialogues held in 2023 and the negotiations on this issue during COP28. The LMDC appreciate the work of the Co-Chairs of the Sharm-El Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Program and thank the secretariat for its work. We were pleased to see that all Parties exchanged their views in a constructive manner in the global dialogues, but we also point to the need for increased participation of Parties, developing country Parties in particular.

We note that the work of the Sharm-El Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Program last year has paved the way for Parties to optimize subsequent dialogues, enhance understanding and learn from each other. While there are areas where the global dialogues could be improved, we believe that in this process of learning by doing, the Sharm-El Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Program will be further optimized and improved, and more effectively facilitate focused exchanges of views, information and ideas to promote mutual understanding and learning among all Parties.

Bolivia on behalf of the LMDC welcomes the opportunity to propose new topics for 2024 and submits the following views.

2. Principles

- (i) The Sharm-El Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Program must be operationalized through a focused exchange of views, information and ideas. As agreed in Decision 4/CMA.4, paragraph 2, the outcomes of the Sharm-El Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation

Work Program shall follow the principles of being of non-prescriptive, non-punitive and facilitative, respectful of national sovereignty and national circumstances, take into account the nationally determined nature of NDCs and will not impose new target or goals, taking fully into account the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities of the Convention and its Paris Agreement to address climate change.

- (ii) The topics for the upcoming global dialogues should cover different topics as stipulated in paragraph 8 of decision X/CMA.5.
- (iii) **The MWP is not the space to implement the mitigation component of the GST decision. Any such interpretation is a misconstrued understanding of the MWP mandate.**
- (iv) The global dialogues must focus on finance, technology and capacity building needs of developing countries as well as addressing gaps and barriers, across all topics, in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, which are the most needed elements to carry out mitigation actions. The dialogues must offer the space for exchange of experiences and focus on “implementation” while reflecting the facilitative nature of the work program.
- (v) The non-prescriptive principle of the Sharm-El Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Program must be respected and reflected across all its activities to improve understanding, mutual learning and promote cooperation. LMDC will not accommodate discussions on emission reduction targets or emission standards, or any quantitative outcome-based on scenarios as a consensus for global policy decision-making. There is no place for such elements in this program.

3. Suggestions for the global dialogues in 2024

- (i) The selection and arrangement of the topics for the Global Dialogue in 2024 should be in accordance with the mandate, covering different topics; exploring opportunities for pragmatic cooperation among all Parties; promoting implementation of mitigation actions; and enhancing mitigation ambition with effective cooperation.
- (ii) According to the mandate, the scope of the work plan should 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 (IPCC WGIII-AR6), and relevant enabling conditions, technologies, just transitions and cross-cutting issues.
- (iii) Paragraph 8 of decision x/CMA. 5 states that successive global dialogues should cover different topics. As energy transitions and transportation were covered in the first two global dialogues in 2023, the 2024 dialogues should focus on topics other than energy transitions and transportation.

This will allow Parties to cover a full range of topics during the course of the 4 years of the MWP, and will be in line with the mandate. With new topics, the work program can explore a broader range of sectors and their mitigation options, leading to a more comprehensive, integrated and effective approach.

- (iv) Given the approach explained above, we propose the topic, “**Sustainable Cities**” along with the suggested sub-topics for the Global Dialogue in 2024, which also elaborates the discussion we envisage under the sub-topics.

Sustainable Cities: Cities are important to the overall efforts in climate change mitigation, in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Mitigation in cities involves a comprehensive and integrated approach that must balance economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. We believe the topic of Sustainable Cities is comprehensive, involving infrastructure, economy, society, culture, environment, risk management and other aspects, as well as different stakeholders, such as governments, local municipalities, enterprises, individual citizens, indigenous peoples and local communities.

Sub-topics:

(1) Urban planning/land use: We envisage a discussion on how to address the separation of work and residential spaces, reduce commuting and emissions through rational urban planning and how to help developing countries access urban planning support. The sub topic should address the challenges in urban planning, especially in terms of the separation and/or integration of the sites of work and sites of residence, creation of green spaces, and ensuring affordable, reliable, and sustainable access to such spaces; what opportunities does good urban planning provides for reducing GHG intensities and overall emissions; what are the differential opportunities and challenges for established cities which need re-design and retrofits vs. new and expanding cities.

(2) Buildings: Adoption of sustainable materials and smart technologies to design and construct sustainable and affordable buildings, improve building energy efficiency through better insulation, high-efficiency HVAC systems, energy-efficient lighting and appliances, and smart building management systems; the practical experience of rainwater harvesting systems in buildings to reduce water waste; how to assist developing countries in accessing finance and technology and capacity for the construction and operation of sustainable and affordable buildings.

(3) Urban Greening: How to enhance ecosystem services/functions in cities in the context of using different approaches; how to enhance green spaces; the opportunities and challenges in promoting and sustaining urban forests or urban forest spaces and enhancing carbon sinks and sequestration in cities; expanding urban green spaces, through tree planting initiatives and the creation of parks for example, to improve micro-climatic conditions and support better lifestyles; sharing of good experiences

and traditional knowledge, including knowledge from indigenous peoples and local communities; how can developing countries be supported in accessing finance, technology (such as eco-city planning, water-saving irrigation, urban landscape maintenance, etc.) and capacity building. Parties should explore innovative ways to harness ecosystem services/functions in urban spaces.

(4) Municipal waste and wastewater management: How to segregate, recycle and regenerate municipal waste, how to deal with solid waste which is difficult to recycle in a low-emissions and environmentally friendly manner, and how to reduce GHG emissions from waste and wastewater treatment, and therefore how to transform those GHG emissions into energy; how to assist developing countries in accessing finance, technology (such as garbage incineration and power generation technology, resource recycling technology) and capacity (for example, establishing infrastructure capacity such as waste segregation and recycling systems, municipal wastewater treatment stations and pipeline networks); how can we attempt to inspire the lifestyles of people to promote concepts of reduce, recycle and reuse.

(5) Water management: Urban areas, with their dense populations and infrastructural complexity, require innovative and effective strategies to manage water resources. In arid regions characterized by water scarcity and high drought frequency, it is important to promote more efficient desalination processes and water saving technologies; the need to enhance support for smart irrigation systems and efficient water-efficient systems, and for developing low emissions technologies that aid the improvement of water management, especially in developing countries.

(6) Promotion of sustainable lifestyles: How to guide and motivate citizens to strengthen or adopt more sustainable lifestyles living in harmony with nature, for example, through best practices in terms of programs and policies implemented in different cities, choices that decrease over-consumption; structural barriers, if any, to promote behavioral change at the individual level; the good experiences and traditional knowledge, including knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities in managing concentrated resource use and promoting sustainable consumption lifestyles; the differential challenges in developed and developing countries where access to resources and levels of consumption in urban areas vary significantly; the relationship between absolute levels of consumptions and the achievement of efficiency in consumption; how to assist developing countries in accessing finance, technology (such as community-based waste management technologies, traditional and new media communication technologies) and capacity building (such as infrastructural capacities, human resource capacities);.

The discussions should not be aimed only at reducing emissions but also addressing socio-economic disparities, and the approaches to facilitate access for developing countries, particularly their low-income communities, to financial resources, cutting-edge technologies, and essential capacities.

(7): Managing trade-offs, costs of mitigation, and the impacts of response measures:

Developing countries face a severe challenge of access to financial resources, cutting-edge technology, and limited capacity to exploit the full potential for low-emissions development in their respective national contexts. In the context of the increasing pace of urbanization, the priority for developing countries is also to meet the developmental needs of their populations and adapt to the increasing impacts of climate change including but not limited to extreme heat, extreme precipitation and flooding, desertification, droughts, and sea-level rise. The IPCC AR6 states that *“In the near term, climate-associated risks to natural and human systems depend more strongly on changes in their vulnerability and exposure than on differences in climate hazards between emissions scenarios (high confidence)”* The priorities of developing countries must therefore be on reducing vulnerability and enhancing adaptive capacity. The allocation of resources to mitigation options, while necessary, may result in trade-offs with these priorities. It is important to take into account such trade-offs and strengthen global efforts to reduce such impacts of response measures in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention. A discussion of such topics will substantially enhance the utility of these dialogues enabling Parties to learn from each other’s experiences and foregrounding the challenges faced by developing countries in meeting the triple requirements of sustainable development, adaptation, and mitigation.

(9) Risk reduction, loss and damage and sustainable development: Connections between risk reduction, loss and damage and sustainable development must be established. Issues related to reducing the risk of climate change in urban environment must be addressed. Also, issues of increased loss of damage and sustainable cities, in particular due to ice melting in mountain systems providing water to high populated urban areas must also be addressed.

4. Organizational arrangements: we propose the following organizational arrangements for the Global Dialogues.

- (i) No breakout workshops:** The previous two global dialogues were organized into four parallel workshops in four breakout rooms. We note with regret that the effectiveness of the dialogues was weakened by the fact that participants in different breakout rooms were unable to hear each other. We suggest not to convene the breakout workshops to enhance opportunities for face-to-face discussions among Parties. If it is indeed necessary to conduct discussions in small groups, it is suggested to reduce the number of parallel workshops. To ensure that the process is transparent and Party-driven, it is recommended to publish the principles and results of the grouping along with the agenda prior to the meeting, and to solicit the opinions of the Parties.
- (ii) Avoid activities that limit virtual participation.** The World Café

introduced in the second global dialogue was not very productive as it excluded the participation of virtual experts. We would request that any such activities are avoided in future dialogues.

- (iii) **Ensuring the “global” character of the global dialogues.** We reiterate that the arrangements of the dialogue should ensure that it is conducted in a global, inclusive, balanced, and Party-driven manner, which allows all Parties to participate on topics of relevance to all Parties. We do not therefore support any regional, non-inclusive approach to the global dialogue which creates unbalanced representation and undermines the “global” character of the dialogues.
- (iv) **Hosting the 1st global dialogue in 2024 in conjunction with SB60 (June 2024) in Bonn.** To avoid any logistical and additional expenses and for more efficiency, we propose to hold the 1st global dialogue of 2024 in conjunction with SB60 (June 2024).