

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the Mitigation Work Programme

provided in line with the mandate given in November 2022¹

February 2024



¹ Paragraph 12, Decision FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/L.1

Mitigation work programme submission

1. Introduction and context

The Global Stocktake outcome at COP28 emphasised that Parties are not yet collectively on track towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal, as well as ‘the need for urgent action and support to keep the 1.5C goal within reach and to address the climate crisis in this critical decade’². It also recognised the need for global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 at the latest and global greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 43% by 2030 relative to the 2019 level.

Parties must now implement the outcomes agreed under the Global Stocktake in this decade to put us collectively back on track, and the Mitigation Work Programme (MWP) has a role to play to support this.

The window of opportunity for the MWP to fulfil its objective of accelerating mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade is getting smaller, and we must ensure sufficient progress is made this year through the Global Dialogues (GDs), Investment-focused events (IFE), hybrid dialogues, and agenda item under the Subsidiary Bodies and CMA to close the gap towards a 1.5C global pathway.

2. Topic selection

The CMA4 MWP Decision sets out that the scope of the MWP ‘**should be based on broad thematic areas relevant to urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade**’.

As stated in the UK’s submission on MWP topic selection last year, we support the MWP co-chairs selecting topics that:

- have been identified as a **priority commitment through previous decisions under the CMA**.
- involve **sectors and themes that require urgent action and will be impactful** in delivering the **highest mitigation abatement potential in the pre-2030 period**.
- are **aligned with the best available science** and findings on how to close the emissions gap.
- will lead to **recommendations that can be replicated to scale**, in a format **with which ministers can engage** at the Pre-2030 Ambition Ministerial Round Table, and **be taken forward domestically**.
- have the **support of a range of Parties and non-Party stakeholders (NPS)** without requiring support from all.

² Paragraph 5, Decision 1/CMA.5.

Further to the above, the topic for the MWP should be selected **taking into account Paragraph 186 of Decision 1/CMA.5** which ‘invites 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’, which points to the MWP. As such, **this year’s MWP topic should integrate relevant mitigation outcomes from the Global Stocktake**. This is reinforced by the fact that the MWP was established ‘in a manner that complements the Global Stocktake’.

As part of the Global Stocktake mitigation outcome in decision 1/CMA.5 at COP28 the following **priority commitments were agreed in paragraphs 28 and 33**:

28. Further recognizes the need for deep, rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5 °C pathways and calls on Parties to contribute to the following global efforts, in a nationally determined manner, taking into account the Paris Agreement and their different national circumstances, pathways and approaches:

(a) Tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030;

(b) Accelerating efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power;

(c) Accelerating efforts globally towards net zero emission energy systems, utilizing zero- and low-carbon fuels well before or by around mid-century;

(d) Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science;

(e) Accelerating zero- and low-emission technologies, including, inter alia, renewables, nuclear, abatement and removal technologies such as carbon capture and utilization and storage, particularly in hard-to-abate sectors, and low-carbon hydrogen production;

(f) Accelerating and substantially reducing non-carbon-dioxide emissions globally, including in particular methane emissions by 2030;

(g) Accelerating the reduction of emissions from road transport on a range of pathways, including through development of infrastructure and rapid deployment of zero-and low-emission vehicles;

(h) Phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that do not address energy poverty or just transitions, as soon as possible;

33. Further emphasizes the importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal, including through enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, and other terrestrial and marine ecosystems acting as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases and by conserving biodiversity, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

To integrate relevant mitigation outcomes from the Global Stocktake, discussions under the MWP on these new commitments constitute the most relevant topic this year, to ensure they lead to urgent action in this decade to deliver high mitigation abatement potential and fulfil the MWP's purpose of accelerating mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade.

As these elements cover a significant amount of ground, we would suggest focusing on paragraph 28 this year and focusing on paragraph 33 next year.

2024 will be an important year for Parties to prepare their next NDCs to 2035, informed by the Global Stocktake, and revisit their NDCs to 2030 as part of that process³. The CMA4 decision on the MWP states that it 'shall function in a manner that is consistent with the procedures and timelines for communication of successive [NDCs]'⁴ and this must be considered as part of the MWP topic selection. Furthermore, national commitments (NDCs and long-term low-emission development strategies (LT-LEDS)) should be considered as a continuum on a pathway consistent with 1.5C, as noted in paragraph 40 of the Global Stocktake Decision⁵. As such, the MWP has a role to play this year to support the development and revisiting of NDCs, considering the link between short and longer-term commitments, and ensuring the topic and sub-topics are framed around how they can support and inform NDC revisiting, development and implementation, in line with paragraph 39 of Decision 1/CMA.5⁶.

We would therefore suggest the following topic for this year: *Solutions to accelerate action and ambition towards meeting paragraph 28 of Decision 1/CMA.5 in a way that informs NDCs.*

As examples of elements for discussion, we would suggest the following non-exhaustive list, with all elements to be discussed within the context of revisiting, developing and implementing NDCs:

- a) Science-based pathways and best practice for transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner across a range of sectors within the energy

³ In line with paragraph 37, Decision 1/CMA.5: 'Recalls Article 3 and Article 4, paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 11, of the Paris Agreement and requests Parties that have not yet done so to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their nationally determined contributions as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by the end of 2024, taking into account different national circumstances;'

⁴ Paragraph 3, Decision 4/CMA.4.

⁵ Paragraph 40, Decision 1/CMA.5: 'Notes the importance of aligning nationally determined contributions with long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, and encourages Parties to align their next nationally determined contributions with long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies;'

⁶ 'Reaffirms the nationally determined nature of nationally determined contributions and Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement and encourages Parties to come forward in their next nationally determined contributions with ambitious, economy-wide emission reduction targets, covering all greenhouse gases, sectors and categories and aligned with limiting global warming to 1.5 °C, as informed by the latest science, in the light of different national circumstances;'

system, such as regulatory frameworks, policies and mobilising investment to support the transition;

- b) Sharing best practice and expertise on science-based aligned pathways for coal phasedown, highlighting the support available for countries to phasedown coal power;
- c) Sharing expertise on measuring methane emissions, sharing best practice on cost-effective measures to reduce methane emissions across the energy, agriculture, and waste sectors, and highlighting the support available for developing countries to identify and reduce methane emissions including programmes/initiatives committed at COP28.

3. Organising the MWP

Activities in the first year of the MWP enabled useful conversations on accelerating just energy transition across the GDs and IFEs, and saw good engagement from Parties and NPS. We appreciated the efforts of the Co-chairs and Secretariat to build a setting for solutions-focused exchanges that can foster international collaboration, as well as the work to improve and build on lessons learnt from one Global Dialogue to the next.

The CMA5 Decision on the MWP provides further guidance on how to organise the work under the MWP, drawing on last year's experience.

To complement those elements, we would like to suggest the following:

- The Co-chairs to continue sharing a technical note well in advance of upcoming dialogues.
- Ensure there is better representation of experts from governments and NPS including implementers, investors, and academics, not simply as speakers and facilitators but also as part of the breakout conversations.
- Ensure online participation is not limited. We saw online participation worked well during GDs and IFEs last year.
- Support for NPS participation by the High-Level Champions (HLCs) can be done by drawing on the model of the Global Stocktake where the HLCs conducted expressions of interest for NPS participation in the Technical Dialogues.
- Make further use of interactive formats as in the second GD with World Cafe tables, based on a regional split, as this enables more dynamic engagement from Parties and stakeholders.
- Ensure that investors and financial stakeholders involved in the IFE can contribute to GD discussions as well, to ensure coherence.
- MWP Co-chairs to organise consultations with Parties and NPS after the publication of reports and ahead of GDs to further inform the design and outputs of subsequent MWP activities, drawing on the inclusive and learning-by-doing approach that has been applied by other UNFCCC processes such as the Global Stocktake.

- Ensure the report on the next global dialogue is made available well ahead (at least six weeks) of sessions to inform discussions.
- Structure discussions under the GDs differently to avoid duplication: as solutions and challenges are heavily linked, we would avoid tackling them separately as has been done so far on the agenda.
- More specific sub-topics for GDs to ensure relevant experts can engage on clear solutions in a particular area.
- Strengthen a solutions-focussed discussion by having presentations on progress being made under the relevant thematic initiatives. This will encourage a better understanding of key best practice, solutions and how to scale them up.
- Provide space to follow up on previous dialogues and topics, especially on lessons learnt and any outstanding questions discussed by Parties and NPS. This could be done through the other in-person or hybrid dialogues mentioned in paragraph 9 of Decision 4/CMA.4.

For future global IFEs we would have the following suggestions:

- Ensure all regions are represented as part of scene-setter presentations introducing the investment landscapes across regions.
- More interaction between Parties and NPS through break out groups on the solutions and opportunities for international cooperation, moving beyond a question-and-answer format.
- Discussions on how to build out investment-ready projects that support the ambition and implementation of NDCs, drawing on the NDC and LT-LEDs Synthesis reports, insights of technical assistance programmes and financial stakeholders. This can also benefit from further discussions at dialogues across different regions.
- Build on the pilot pitch-hubs by facilitating engagement between financial stakeholders and those pitching for project support prior to the IFE, to provide assistance and help accelerate collaboration.

For other in-person or hybrid dialogues and IFEs we would suggest the following:

- Organise more in-depth conversations as part of hybrid dialogues, including at regional climate weeks, as we heard about the need to address unique regional challenges and solutions throughout last year. These would benefit from a higher likelihood of attendance from regional and financial stakeholders.
- Use existing events relating to MWP topics, NDCs and LT-LEDs where expert stakeholders are involved to make the most of their presence. For example, the first Global Dialogue could have taken place alongside the GIZ Global NDC Conference in Germany last year.
- Collaborate with other stakeholders that have experience in organising regional dialogues. For example, the IRENA regional investment forums and the High-level Champions' teams' experience of organising regional finance forums and implementation labs in 2022.