



# Australian Government

## Submissions on matters relating to the work programme for urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation referred to in decision 4/ CMA.4

February 2024

Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide views on topics for the mitigation ambition and implementation work programme (MWP) in 2024 and beyond.

We recognise the MWP's objective outlined in paragraph 1, 4/CMA.4 to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade in a manner that complements the global stocktake (GST). The MWP should focus on topics with the highest potential to support deep, rapid and sustained emissions reductions in this critical decade. This year's work should build on last year's discussions on accelerating just energy transitions and consider the relevant mitigation outcomes agreed by all Parties at COP28.

Topic selection must take into account the agreed modalities of the MWP, including supporting the procedures and timelines for nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and addressing sectors and themes highlighted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as well as relevant enabling conditions, technologies, just transitions and cross-cutting issues (paragraphs 3 and 4 of 4/CMA.4). Topics should give meaningful consideration to the critical role of Indigenous Peoples, women and girls, youth, civil society, and nature-based solutions in mitigation action.

### 1. Topic for 2024

Australia supports the **follow up on the mitigation outcomes from the first global stocktake** as the overarching topic for the MWP in 2024.

This will enable the MWP to support countries in their efforts to respond to the GST's call for urgent course correction to keep 1.5 degrees within reach in line with the best-available science. Taking forward the consensus outcomes of COP28 is relevant to all Parties. This includes building on last year's discussions on energy, as well as addressing other IPCC sectors and themes not yet covered by the MWP. It would align strongly with the objective and mandate of the MWP and appropriately responds to paragraph 186, decision 1/CMA.5.

### 2. Key areas of interest for Australia

Mitigation outcomes in the GST cover a range of issues, including *inter alia* NDCs, fossil fuels and energy transition, non-CO2 gases, zero- and low-emission technologies, road transport, fossil fuel subsidies, nature-based solutions, deforestation, oceans, sustainable lifestyles and support and investment. For the MWP's activities in 2024, Australia would welcome a focus on the below issues.

- *Follow-up on energy transition:* Recognising the high mitigation potential of the energy sector and the significant breadth of sub-topics on energy we did not discuss in-depth in 2023, it would be valuable to expand on this topic in light of the outcomes of the GST. For example, opportunities to accelerate action in this critical decade to **triple renewable energy capacity globally** by 2030 and **transition 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.

- As well as driving emissions reductions, scaling up renewable energy capacity offers significant economic opportunities for many countries. This includes improving development outcomes, creating new jobs, improving energy security and economic diversification. We therefore see value in building off last year's discussions on renewable energy to consider how countries can contribute to global efforts to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030.
- Despite the focus on accelerating just energy transitions in 2023, the MWP has yet to consider the transition away from fossil fuels in-depth. According to the International Energy Agency, it is estimated that energy accounts for three quarters of total greenhouse gas emissions globally, and fossil fuels continue to represent 80% of the total energy supply globally. The importance of transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems has been recognised by all Parties through the outcome of the first GST, and many countries are currently focused on their national energy transitions. We therefore see value in the MWP directly addressing this call in the GST.
- *Consideration of other relevant IPCC thematic areas:* In light of the GST's consensus outcome to double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030, **reducing emissions in the buildings sector** could be incorporated into the MWP this year, noting the urgent need for further policy development and investment in energy efficiency and clean technologies for buildings.
- *NDC preparation:* In light of paragraph 3, 4/CMA.4, the MWP should seek to support Parties in implementing the GST outcomes focused on NDCs, including through **knowledge exchange on NDC preparation**. This includes consideration of paragraph 9, 1/CMA.5 to facilitate meaningful and effective social dialogue and participation of Indigenous Peoples and all stakeholders in mitigation action, including local governments, women, and youth and children. Discussions on NDCs through the MWP should be complementary to existing Paris Agreement processes on NDCs, including the new annual global stocktake dialogue (paragraph 187, 1/CMA.5) and capacity-building workshops on NDCs (paragraph 117, 1/CMA.5).
- *Investment:* We see value in considering opportunities to **enhance global investment** to facilitate the implementation of GST mitigation outcomes. Parties could discuss approaches to aligning and incorporating climate targets and policies into domestic economic frameworks, investment plans and regulatory approaches, including to attract and de-risk private sector investment in mitigation outcomes. It would also be valuable for Parties to discuss how they could cooperate to enhance strategic investment in global supply chains in a manner which will help to reduce the overall costs of clean energy technologies globally, to further strengthen and accelerate uptake of renewable energy technologies.

### 3. Topic for 2025

Early consideration of topics for future years would improve planning throughout the MWP's lifespan. Australia supports **agriculture, forestry and land use** as the topic for 2025, recognising that reducing agricultural emissions and increasing carbon stored in the land while maintaining critical production of food and fibre is a complex global challenge. This topic would allow for further consideration of the implementation of GST outcomes, particularly with regards to paragraph 33 and

34, decision 1/CMA.5. We also see value in focusing on halting deforestation, nature-based solutions and the climate/ biodiversity nexus in conjunction with COP30, to take place in the Amazonian city of Belém, noting in addition the potential adaptation co-benefits that can reduce the impacts of climate change and serve to avert, minimise and address loss and damage.

#### **4. Criteria**

Australia considers that the following criteria should be taken into account when selecting topics for the MWP's dialogues and investment-focused events:

- *Significance to keeping 1.5 degrees within reach and alignment with the best-available science:* the MWP should cover areas where mitigation must be addressed urgently in this critical decade to keep 1.5 degrees within reach and to align with recommendations from the IPCC to achieve deep, rapid and sustained emissions reductions by 2030 and beyond.
- *Complementarity with the GST:* topics must recognise and align with the MWP's mandate to complement the GST, including by integrating relevant outcomes of the first GST in planning its future work, as agreed in paragraph 186, 1/CMA.5.
- *Relevance to Parties:* topics should cover issues relevant to many Parties, considering where further action, international cooperation and knowledge exchange would be of most benefit to all.
- *Address IPCC sectors and themes as relevant sub-topics:* the overarching topic should strike a balance between providing direction while being sufficiently broad to enable the inclusion of multiple IPCC thematic areas (e.g. energy, buildings, industry) and/or other relevant sub-topics.
- *Follow-up from previous discussions:* topics should allow for follow-up on and be complementary to discussions from previous years to leverage lessons learned, address issues that would benefit from further discussion and enhance opportunities to deliver tangible outcomes that reduce emissions on the ground.

#### **5. Process considerations**

In the spirit of learning by doing, Australia is supportive of improvements to the organisation and format of the global dialogues to provide more time for participants to discuss a diverse range of subtopics. Allowing for the consideration of opportunities and barriers together, rather than on separate days, would avoid duplication and leave more time for in-depth discussion between participants under each subtopic.

We support the call to enhance non-Party participation, including relevant experts, international organisations, Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Organisations, and expand virtual participation opportunities, as agreed by Parties at COP28. Improving the format of the dialogues to leave more time for discussion under each subtopic would allow for more participation by non-Party stakeholders and virtual attendees.

Australia sees value in the organisation of complementary, virtual-only dialogues between experts on specific subtopics to leverage the MWP's convening power to support enhanced peer-to-peer exchange between countries on technical issues. We remain strongly supportive of regional dialogues, open to all interested participants but focused on specific regions, to allow for in-depth discussion of different regional issues and contexts. Virtual-only and regional dialogues would also facilitate non-Party stakeholder and virtual participation to contribute to the response to paragraph 10.b, 4/CMA.5.