



WWF Submission to the Ad-hoc Work Programme on the New Collective Quantified Goal

12 February 2024

In response to the Call coming from the co-chairs of the Ad-hoc Work Programme on New Collective Quantified Goal, WWF is pleased to submit the inputs below to the Programme.

Summary

- The first 2024 meeting of the Programme should focus on preparing the outline for the final decision, based on the work of previous two years.
- The second meeting should focus on substantive elements of the goal, taking into account possible time limitations.
- The third meeting should finalize discussion on substantive elements, as well as give space for discussion on further NCQG process and quantum itself.
- Programme work should produce a draft decision – which should be introduced to CMA as a joint submission of all parties.
- High Level Ministerial Dialogue should give a proper political signal to the negotiators instead of just being a space for repeating known position of the Parties, and therefore a proper preparation and engagement of Ministers will be crucial.

Below is WWF's response to a call for submissions on the New Collective Quantified Goal process during 2024 and how to produce a negotiation text before the COP29 in Baku. The role of the High Level Ministerial Dialogue will also be addressed.

In general, work of the Technical Expert Dialogues should serve as an expert input into second parts of the meetings – being under the Ad Hoc Work Programme. The Ad Hoc Work Programme should serve as a negotiating space for the Goal, and given that this is a Party-driven process, should work to create a text based on written and oral submissions from Parties.

However, this is also a unique opportunity to use expertise coming from the civil society by allowing CSO submissions that could be included in each stage of the negotiations on the same level as Party submissions. It would be clearly understood that the final decision will be made by Parties during CMA 6 and COP29.

The goal of this year's discussion should be to provide a draft decision text, with clear options, well ahead of the CMA 6 and allowing for Ministerial engagement to get the best possible political impact during the CMA itself.

First Technical Expert Dialogue (TED) and Ad Hoc Work Programme (AWP) meeting of 2024

On process:

TED: First Technical Expert Dialogue should serve as a space for summarizing the work of the two previous years and list all the basic thematic elements that should constitute the new goal and

AWP: Based on the TED's technical work, Parties should engage on creating an outline for the NCQG decision.

Outcome:

The ideal outcome of the first session would be a draft thematic outline and structure for the final decision, including all the elements proposed by Parties, with an understanding that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed, and some elements might not be a part of a final goal.

This text should form a basis for the work of the second AWP meeting.

Second TED and AWP meeting

On process:

Since the meeting will be either back-to-back or in conjunction with the meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies, it might not allow for an extended discussion, therefore its scope should be scaled accordingly to the time allotted. However, it should aim to achieve the following:

TED: The Second Technical Expert Dialogue should focus on the structure of the goal, including substantive elements (like whether it will be one of many goals, what thematic parts the goal should have – like mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage), what accounts for the goal – and possibly a definition of finance accountable under the goal.

AWP: Based on the work of the TED, AWP should provide clear options for each of the elements of the goal, as well as provide placeholders for the final discussions on elements of the goal, including procedural ones.

Outcome:

The outcome of the second negotiating period should be a partial decision text, populated with options on the discussed topics and with clear placeholders for the process part of the goal as well as quantum.

This text should constitute a basis for the work of the third AWP meeting.

Third TED and AWP meeting

On process:

TED: The Technical Expert Dialogue should focus on two main aspects of the NCQG:

1. Further process under NCQG (timeline(s), updating the goal, transparency etc.)
2. Quantum of the goal (or goals).

Its input should provide options for each of those elements based on technical analysis and presentations from various institutions and organizations.

AWP: Third negotiating space should aim, based on the technical work, to provide clear options for the process and quantum – and fill any remaining placeholders in the draft decision, also dealing with elements that were not concluded during previous meetings.

Outcome:

The outcome of the meeting should be a draft decision text - negotiating text with clear options (albeit brackets may be unavoidable at this stage). This draft decision should serve as a basis for the discussions on NCQG during CMA 6. Ideally, as it is a Party-driven process, it should be presented to CMA 6 as a joint submission of all the parties that participated in the work, with a clear understanding that all parties are free to submit additional textual proposals at any time.

This can also feed into a separate Ministerial discussion track.

High Level Ministerial Dialogue (HLMD) during CMA 6

Option 1:

HLMD can provide an important political signal for the final leg of the NCQG negotiations. However, to give a proper momentum and achieve right results, Ministers should be engaged well ahead of CMA 6.

Typical Ministerial engagement on previous HMLDs were usually (but not exclusively) limited to pre-written statements. This would not be helpful for achieving the NCQG decision. Therefore, we should try to arrange HLMD well ahead, possibly organizing working groups of interested ministers, on varying topics, meeting (even virtually) and discussing all pros and cons of proposed solution.

High Level Ministerial Dialogue during CMA 6 itself should serve as a summary of previous discussions, giving a clear political signal to the negotiators and leaving time for finalizing an NCQG decision.

Option 2:

Alternatively, the approach used during COP 21 in Paris during the final negotiations of the Agreement could be utilized, with Ministers taking over the ownership of the negotiating text and – with support from negotiators – reaching the final agreement on the political level. This would require more engagement on Ministers’ side than a simple HLMD – indeed, a full negotiating track.

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