



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Submission by South Africa on topics in line with the scope of the work programme referred to in paragraph Decision 4/CMA.4, paras 12 and 14 and FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/L.16, paras. 7 and 9 to be discussed under the dialogues**

**Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme**

**3 April 2024**

South Africa is pleased to suggest topics in line with the scope of the work programme for urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation, in response to the CMA decision in Sharm el-Sheikh (November 2022), paragraph 12. We focus here on topics to be discussed in the global dialogues in 2024, understanding that further topics will be discussed in the following years, up to 2026.

## **1. Framing and context**

The Mitigation Work Programme (MWP) is to be understood in the context of other work programmes, including on the Global Goal on Adaptation and its framework, the Glasgow Dialogue on Loss and Damage, the New Quantified Collective Goal on finance, and the Just Transitions Work Programme. The GST is the permanent mechanism under the Paris Agreement for scaling up ambition, across all elements every five years, in the light of equity and best available science. It is important to highlight that according to UNFCCC decisions 1/CMA.3, paragraph 27, the MWP should complement the global stocktake, and not duplicate or replace the GST. The MWP should consider the outcomes of GST1, the CMA5 decision and technical findings relevant to mitigation. Additionally, according to decision 1/CMA.4, paragraph 52, there should be complementarity between the MWP and the work programme on

just transition for discussion of pathways to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement outlined in Article 2, paragraph 1, in the context of Article 2, paragraph 2.

South Africa approaches all parts of the negotiations based on science and equity. Equity is a critical enabler for scaling up mitigation. The science is clear: Four-fifths of a global carbon budget GCB consistent with an 50:50 chance of limiting global warming to 1.5 °C has already been spent (2400 ± 240 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq from 1850 to 2019), which is why only 500 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq of CO<sub>2</sub> can be emitted – and that remaining GCB) without increasing temperature by an additional 0.43 °C (additional to 1.07 °C increase already).<sup>1</sup> We all know that most of the historical GCB was emitted by developed countries, and must also accept that we all have responsibility for the future, which should be approached in a common but differentiated manner and . South Africa attaches the highest importance to reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which assesses the best available science, and remains an essential input to the negotiations under the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement.

South Africa also wishes to highlight that as per paragraph 2 of decision 4/CMA.4, the outcomes of the work programme will be non-prescriptive, non-punitive, facilitative, respectful of national sovereignty and national circumstances, take into account the nationally determined nature of nationally determined contributions and will not impose new targets or goals.

Implementation as an essential part of mitigation ambition. The MWP should have as a core focus implementation of the mitigation component of NDCs. This should include implementation of current updated NDCs and further mitigation ambition through NDCs – voluntary with international climate finance support. Implementation of domestic mitigation measures – in all countries, with support needed in some. The MWP can also consider how to enhance international cooperation in support of implementing ambitious mitigation, under the multi-lateral rules-based regime.

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<sup>1</sup> IPCC AR6, WGI Table SPM.2 and WGIII SPM para B.1.3.

## 2. Topics

South Africa proposes the following topics (in bold font), with an explanation and background (in regular font):

**2.1 Provision of support for NDCs:** based on meeting the support obligations (Article 9) and mobilization goal (A9.3) and scaling up massively beyond.

**2.2 Financing just (energy) transitions:** Although the Just (energy) transitions have been discussed in the previous global dialogues, SA feels that this requires further dialogue in the context of the JTWP. According to decision 1/CMA.4, paragraph 52, there should be complementarity between the MWP and the work programme on just transition for discussion of pathways to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement outlined in Article 2, paragraph 1, in the context of Article 2, paragraph 2. Support to developing countries to move away from high-emissions to low emissions energy sources, while ensuring no-one is left behind is crucial. Implementation of a JT is complex and will differ by context. Yet some implementation attributes will be common – including finance. JTs need to start development and implementation urgently, though they may take a long time to implement. Just transitions are not limited to the energy sector, and indeed equity means that impacts on poor and vulnerable communities must be avoided through climate resilient development. The MWP should focus on Just Energy Transition Financing Frameworks at the multilateral level in order to ensure scaled up programmatic finance, with appropriate terms and conditions, to facilitate developing country climate action.

**2.3** How to support increased ambition in implementing domestic mitigation measures, and setting more ambitious mitigation targets in NDCs. The GST technical findings included that urgent action and support are needed to ramp up implementation of domestic mitigation measures by realizing opportunities across all sectors and systems. The CMA decision on the outcome of the GST further recognized the need for deep, rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas

emissions in line with 1.5 °C pathways and called 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, listing a range of policies and measures that Parties can choose to include in their NDCs. Developing countries, including South Africa, are pursuing their highest possible ambition, while meeting other sustainable development goals and eradicating poverty. We therefore need support to further increase mitigation ambition. The MWP should take further the political outcome of the GST, and draw on the technical information.

South Africa considers that it may be valuable to have detailed discussions on models & scenarios, unpacking the role of global IAMs and national modeling, to inform ambition and equity, in a manner that is sensitive to context and development priorities, based on best available science, notably IPCC reports.

### **3. Other important issues to address**

- More focus should be placed on the financing and other enablers of mitigation action and ambition.
- A greater emphasis and increased improvement of the IFE. There should be a stronger link between the IFEs and the climate change mitigation projects/programmes countries are developing and implementing at a national level.
- As per paragraph 2 of decision 4/CMA.4, the outcomes of the work programme will be non-prescriptive, non-punitive, facilitative, respectful of national sovereignty and national circumstances, take into account the nationally determined nature of nationally determined contributions and will not impose new targets or goals.

### **4. Process**

It is important that each of the global dialogues has a diversity of experts, and we request the co-chairs to ensure a diversity of information, related to the topics, is

presented and that there is equitable participation and balanced geographical representation from all countries and that discussions are reflected in a non-exhaustive manner in both the dialogues and the summary reports. We intend to provide further views on good practices and opportunities, barriers and challenges, once the co-chairs have chosen topics for the first dialogue.

South Africa looks forward to exchanging views with other Parties during the dialogues and sessions.